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BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1934

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT

upon the

**SANITARY CONDITION
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

of the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BEDFORD

for the year

1934

by

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

M.D. (Lond.), *Degree in State Medicine, D.P.H. (Oxon.)*
Medical Officer of Health.



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**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Public Health and Sanitary circumstances of the County of Bedford for the year 1934.

This Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated by the Minister of Health in his Circular as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

The birth rate for Bedfordshire, in common with that for the whole Country, shows a small rise compared with that for the previous year, which it will be remembered was the lowest ever recorded.

The corrected death rate for the County continues to be satisfactorily low and is below that for the whole Country.

During the year further consideration was given to the important problem of supplying the unprovided parts of the County with a pure and adequate water supply. The various local authorities concerned have submitted schemes, which have received the approval of the Council. It is hoped that the various schemes will be put into operation at the earliest possible moment.

The Clerk of the Council has, as heretofore, been ever ready with his assistance and advice, and my thanks are due to the District Medical Officers of Health for their cordial co-operation at all times.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the good work of the whole Staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

County Medical Officer of Health.

SHIRE HALL, BEDFORD.

JUNE, 1935.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

County Medical Officer of Health :

CUTHBERT G. WELCH, M.D. (Lond.), Degree in State Medicine,
D.P.H. (Oxon).

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant School Medical Officer :

GEORGE R. PAINTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.).

Assistant Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare) and Assistant School Medical Officer :

MARJORIE H. KING, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Assistant Medical Officer (Tuberculosis) (Resident) and Assistant School Medical Officer :

WILLIAM EDWARD MASHITER, M.A., M.D., B.Chir. (Camb.)
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Assistant Tuberculosis Medical Officer :

GEORGE A. HAYMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

School Dentists :

C. E. MAINWARING, L.D.S.

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.

County Analyst (part time).

J. KEAR COLWELL, Esq., F.I.C.

Health Visitors and Inspectors of Midwives :

MRS. E. H. CURTIS, S.R.N.

MISS C. D. SMITH, S.R.N.

MISS M. K. COAD, S.R.N.

MRS. I. RUSSELL, S.R.N.

MISS E. VITTLES, S.R.N.

MISS R. LAMB, S.R.N.

MISS M. JONES, S.R.N.

All the Health Visitors hold the Certificate of the C.M.B.

Dental Nurses :

MISS A. R. PECK, S.R.N.

MISS G. C. W. RIDDY, S.R.N.

Tuberculosis Nurse :

MISS E. A. TOPLEY, S.R.N.

STAFF (*continued*).

Clerical Staff :

Chief Clerk : E. H. L. STONEBANKS.

2nd Class Clerks : MISS D. A. HANDS and S. P. MARRIOTT.

Third Class Clerk : K. T. WHITE.

Shorthand Typist : MISS F. H. MARKHAM.

Junior Clerks : MISS J. K. TURNER, C. G. W. DENNING
and J. A. WEST (appointed 1/1/35).

Dispensary Caretaker and V.D. Orderly :

A. CLAYSON (*Luton*)

Part-time V.D. Orderlies :

J. HYDE (*Luton*)

E. WOOTTON (*Bedford*)

Public Assistance Institutional Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators (Part time).

| | | |
|--|--------|--------------------|
| Ampthill Public Assistance Institution. | ... | DR. W. E. C. PARRY |
| Bedford Public Assistance Institution (St. Peter's Hos- pital). | ... | DR. H. D. POLLARD |
| Kempston Children's Home. | | DR. E. GORDON |
| Biggleswade Public Assistance Institution, and Biggleswade Boys' and Girls' Homes. | | DR. F. BOLSTER |
| Luton Public Assistance Insti- tution, the Beech Hill Boys' Home and the Farley Hill Girls' Home. | ... | DR. J. M. O'MEARA |
| Leighton Buzzard Public Assist- ance Institution. | ... | DR. W. H. SQUARE |

STAFF (*continued*).*Public Assistance District Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators
(Part time).*

| <i>District</i> | <i>P. A. District M. O.</i> | <i>Public Vaccinator.</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bromham | DR. W. H. MILLER | DR. W. H. MILLER |
| Bedford | DR. J. A. LEAHY | DR. J. A. LEAHY |
| Clapham | DR. H. M. COOMBS | DR. H. M. COOMBS |
| Great Barford | DR. G. C. HUGHES | DR. G. C. HUGHES |
| Little Barford | DR. E. J. CROSS | DR. E. J. CROSS |
| Eaton Socon | DR. A. H. HUDSON | DR. A. H. HUDSON |
| Dean | DR. E. ROBINSON | DR. E. ROBINSON |
| Riseley and Sharnbrook | DR. C. J. M. LAWRENCE | DR. C. J. M. LAWRENCE |
| Wymington | DR. D. G. GREENFIELD | DR. D. G. GREENFIELD |
| Podington | DR. O. B. LEAN | DR. O. B. LEAN |
| Harrold | DR. W. BLAYNEY | DR. W. BLAYNEY |
| Turvey | DR. H. W. ROUND | DR. H. W. ROUND |
| Biggleswade | DR. C. K. CROWTHER | DR. C. K. CROWTHER |
| Potton | DR. J. J. H. ANDERSON | DR. J. J. H. ANDERSON |
| Blunham and Sandy | DR. T. CAMPBELL | DR. T. CAMPBELL |
| Shefford and Haynes | DR. W. J. JOHNSON | DR. W. J. JOHNSON |
| Arlesey | DR. M. L. FARMER | DR. M. L. FARMER |
| Amphill No. 1 District | DR. W. E. C. PARRY | DR. W. E. C. PARRY |
| Amphill No. 2 District | DR. C. H. MACKLIN | DR. C. H. MACKLIN |
| Marston Moretaine and Cranfield | DR. A. E. STREET | DR. A. E. STREET |
| Aspley Guise | DR. J. RICHARDSON | DR. J. RICHARDSON |
| Toddington and Hockliffe | DR. R. F. M. FAWCETT | DR. R. F. M. FAWCETT |
| Shillington | DR. H. J. SHANLEY | DR. H. J. SHANLEY |
| Barton | DR. J. ROLLINGS | DR. J. ROLLINGS |
| Dunstable | DR. H. A. A. PARGETER | DR. H. A. A. PARGETER |
| Caddington | DR. J. E. S. SMITH | DR. J. E. S. SMITH |
| Hyde | DR. J. A. CLARKE | DR. J. BIRCH |
| Stopsley | DR. H. O'MEARA | DR. J. BIRCH |
| Luton | DR. J. ROBERTSON | DR. J. BIRCH |
| Leighton Buzzard | DR. J. GROGONO | DR. C. M. L. COWPER |

Vaccination Officers (Part time)

| <i>District</i> | <i>Name and Address of Officer</i> | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| AMPTHILL | ... | ... | ... | MR. C. A. JEFFS, Amphill |
| BEDFORD | ... | ... | ... | MR. A. F. BAILEY, Bedford |
| BIGGLESWADE | ... | ... | ... | MR. C. RUTT, Biggleswade |
| DUNSTABLE | ... | ... | ... | MR. T. H. TAYLOR, Dunstable |
| EATON SOCON | ... | ... | ... | MR. H. PATEMAN, St. Neots. |
| LEIGHTON BUZZARD | ... | ... | ... | MR. H. G. GLEED, Leighton Buzzard |
| LUTON | ... | ... | ... | MR. J. Q. CLAYTON, Luton |
| WOBURN | ... | ... | ... | MR. E. H. L. STONEBANKS, Bedford |
| WYMINGTON | ... | ... | ... | MR. T. W. GINDERS, Wellingborough |

LIST OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTORS OF THE SEPARATE SANITARY DISTRICTS WITHIN THE COUNTY.

| <u>URBAN DISTRICTS</u> | | <u>MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH</u> | | <u>SANITARY INSPECTOR</u> |
|------------------------|-----|---|-----|---|
| Ampthill | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | F. H. Williams, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A. |
| Bedford | ... | G. K. Bowes, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. | ... | F. C. Haynes, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A. |
| Biggleswade | ... | H. W. Grattan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | ... | W. S. Green, Inst. M.C.E., A.R.S.I. |
| Dunstable | ... | H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | ... | A. Bishop, Cert. R.S.I. |
| Kempston | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | P. W. Cooper, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. |
| Leighton Buzzard | ... | J. Grogono, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. | ... | B. H. Robjant, Cert. R.S.I. |
| Luton | ... | W. Archibald, T.D., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. | ... | A. J. Nichols, M.R.S.I. |
| Sandy | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.C.R.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | H. Vivian James, M.S.I.A. |
| <u>RURAL DISTRICTS</u> | | | | |
| Ampthill | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | L. Foster, M.I.M. & Cy.E., Cert. R.S.I. |
| Bedford | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | F. Lindley, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A. |
| Biggleswade | ... | H. W. Grattan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | ... | C. M. Robinson, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. (Meat & Food Inspection) |
| Luton | ... | W. K. Parbury, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.M.R.E. | ... | H. Pickering, A.R.S.I., M.I.M. & Cy.E. |

BEDFORDSHIRE.

The area of the geographical and administrative County is 474 square miles, or 302,942 acres. Its greatest length from North to South is $36\frac{1}{2}$ miles and its greatest breadth $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are in addition, five Urban Districts, and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1934, the rateable value was £1,307,324. The produce of a penny rate was for general County purposes, £4,971.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525.

The aggregate resident population of the County, as estimated for the middle of 1934 by the Registrar General, was as follows :—

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Urban Districts | ... | ... | 153,860 |
| Rural Districts | ... | ... | 75,490 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| The County | ... | ... | 229,350 |
| | | | <hr/> |

The above figures relate to the Districts in question as constituted after the alterations in boundaries in accordance with the North Bedfordshire Review Order, 1934. The alterations took effect as from 1st April, 1934, and as the numbers of births and deaths for the *first three months* of the year are allocated to the areas as then constituted some adjustment has had to be made in respect of the *annual* rates of births, deaths, etc. in the areas affected. The following composite figures have, therefore, been furnished by the Registrar-General, and form the basis on which the Statistical Tables in this Report are compiled, viz :—

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| Population :— | Urban Districts | ... | 153,345 |
| | Rural Districts | ... | 76,005 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | The County | ... | 229,350 |
| | | | <hr/> |

BIRTHS.

The Birth-Rate for the Administrative County during the year 1934 was 14.30 per thousand; that for England and Wales being 14.8 per thousand.

3,280 live births were registered in the Administrative County, 140 of which were illegitimate. The birth-rates per 1,000 of the Administrative County, the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and of England and Wales for the last five years, are given below :—

| LOCALITIES. | BIRTH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
| Urban Districts | 14.2 | 13.7 | 13.4 | 12.3 | 14.1 |
| Rural Districts | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.2 | 14.9 | 14.6 |
| Administrative County | 14.5 | 14.2 | 14.0 | 13.2 | 14.3 |
| England & Wales | 16.3 | 15.8 | 15.3 | 14.4 | 14.8 |

It will be observed that a small increase is shown in the Birth-rate for the County, and also for the Country as a whole.

Natural increase of population is the excess of births over deaths and is usually expressed per thousand of the population. In Bedfordshire the natural increase was 2.6 per thousand in 1934; that for England and Wales being 2.0 per thousand.

The following Tables give the live birth statistics for the County Districts for the year 1934 :—

| URBAN DISTRICTS | TOTAL BIRTHS. | LEGITI-MATE. | ILLEGITI-MATE. | TOTAL BIRTH RATE. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ampthill | 25 | 24 | 1 | 13.6 |
| Bedford... .. | 420 | 399 | 21 | 12.6 |
| Biggleswade | 85 | 81 | 4 | 13.8 |
| Dunstable | 119 | 114 | 5 | 16.0 |
| Kempston | 80 | 78 | 2 | 13.6 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 83 | 83 | 0 | 14.5 |
| Luton | 949 | 905 | 44 | 14.8 |
| Sandy | 49 | 47 | 2 | 13.1 |
| Aggregate of Urban Districts | 1,810 | 1,731 | 79 | 14.1 |

| RURAL DISTRICTS. | TOTAL BIRTHS. | LEGITI-MATE. | ILLEGITI-MATE. | TOTAL BIRTH RATE. |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ampthill | 280 | 266 | 14 | 14.2 |
| Bedford | 326 | 317 | 9 | 15.8 |
| Biggleswade | 315 | 304 | 11 | 13.2 |
| Luton | 203 | 196 | 7 | 15.4 |
| Aggregate of Rural Districts | 1,124 | 1,083 | 41 | 14.6 |

STILL BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate for the Administrative County for 1934, that is to say, the rate per thousand total births (live and still) was 34.16.

The Still-Birth Rate *per thousand of the population* for 1934 remains the same as in the previous year viz.:—Bedfordshire 0.51 ; England and Wales 0.62 per thousand.

Particulars of Still Births registered in the County during the last five years, are set out in the following Table :—

| | | TOTAL. | | LEGITIMATE | | ILLEGITIMATE. | |
|-----------------|------|--------|----------|------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | | Males. | Females. | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Urban Districts | 1930 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 36 | 4 | 1 |
| | 1931 | 35 | 44 | 30 | 38 | 5 | 6 |
| | 1932 | 36 | 39 | 36 | 36 | 0 | 3 |
| | 1933 | 42 | 34 | 42 | 33 | 0 | 1 |
| | 1934 | 45 | 38 | 43 | 37 | 2 | 1 |
| Rural Districts | 1930 | 17 | 25 | 14 | 23 | 3 | 2 |
| | 1931 | 28 | 15 | 25 | 14 | 3 | 1 |
| | 1932 | 29 | 9 | 27 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| | 1933 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 2 | 1 |
| | 1934 | 22 | 11 | 21 | 11 | 1 | — |
| Whole County | 1930 | 57 | 62 | 50 | 59 | 7 | 3 |
| | 1931 | 63 | 59 | 55 | 52 | 8 | 7 |
| | 1932 | 65 | 48 | 63 | 43 | 2 | 5 |
| | 1933 | 62 | 54 | 60 | 52 | 2 | 2 |
| | 1934 | 67 | 49 | 64 | 48 | 3 | 1 |

DEATHS.

The Crude Death-Rate for the Administrative County during the year 1934 was 11.7 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 11.8 per thousand.

It will be observed that the death-rate for Bedfordshire is slightly below that for England and Wales.

The total number of deaths registered in the Administrative County, after adjustment for outward and inward transfers, during 1934, was 2,674, compared with 2,616 in 1933.

The death-rates per 1,000 for the Administrative County and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales, were as follows :—

| LOCALITIES. | GENERAL DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
| Urban Districts | 10.5 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 11.5 |
| Rural Districts | 11.8 | 12.8 | 12.9 | 11.5 | 12.0 |
| Administrative County | 10.9 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 11.7 |
| England & Wales | 11.4 | 12.3 | 12.0 | 12.3 | 11.8 |

The recorded Crude Death-rates for the Sanitary Districts in Bedfordshire for 1933 and 1934 are given below :—

| Urban Sanitary Districts. | Death Rate. | | Rural Sanitary Districts. | Death Rate. | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | 1933. | 1934. | | 1933. | 1934. |
| Ampthill | 14.9 | 10.5 | Ampthill | 12.9 | 13.3 |
| Bedford | 12.5 | 11.9 | Bedford | 11.7 | 12.8 |
| Biggleswade | 12.4 | 9.6 | Biggleswade | 11.0 | 10.1 |
| Dunstable | 13.1 | 13.7 | Luton | 9.4 | 11.7 |
| Kempston | 12.4 | 12.4 | | | |
| Leighton Buzzard... | 13.4 | 11.9 | | | |
| Luton | 10.5 | 11.0 | | | |
| Sandy | 12.7 | 11.5 | | | |

ADJUSTED DEATH RATES.

In order to obtain a more accurate index of the mortality of a district, and to arrive at a true basis on which to compare the mortality rates of one district with those of another, allowance must be made for the sex and age distribution of its population. In this connection the Registrar-General has supplied comparability factors for each separate district and the County as a whole. The application of these adjusting factors gives the corrected death rates for the County and for the separate sanitary districts thereof, which are as follows :—

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Whole County | 10.6 |
| Urban Districts :— | |
| Ampthill | 7.3 |
| Bedford | 10.5 |
| Biggleswade | 8.1 |
| Dunstable | 12.9 |
| Kempston | 11.8 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 10.1 |
| Luton | 11.7 |
| Sandy | 9.4 |
| Aggregate of Urban Districts ... | 11.0 |
| Rural Districts :— | |
| Ampthill | 10.4 |
| Bedford | 10.1 |
| Biggleswade | 8.8 |
| Luton | 10.5 |
| Aggregate of Rural Districts ... | 9.9 |

From an examination of the above table it will be seen that when the various circumstances have been taken into account, the corrected death rate for the County of Bedford is 10.6 as compared with the crude death rate of 11.7.

The figures with regard to the Ampthill Urban District clearly show the necessity of taking into account the age distribution of the population before forming any opinion on the mortality rate in that locality.

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Administrative County of Bedfordshire, 1934.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS | | | | | | AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | At all ages | under 1 year | 1 and under 2 | 2 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and under 75 | 75 and upwards | At all ages | under 1 year | 1 and under 2 | 2 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and under 75 | 75 and upwards |
| Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Measles ... | 4 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | 5 | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — | — | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 | — | 3 | 5 |
| Diphtheria ... | 38 | — | 3 | 17 | 17 | — | 8 | — | 9 | 7 | 18 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Influenza ... | 29 | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | 9 | 3 | — |
| Tuberculosis of Resp. System... | 88 | — | — | — | 25 | 41 | 20 | 1 | — | 1 | 31 | — | — | — | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... | 23 | 2 | 1 | — | 7 | 3 | 7 | — | — | — | 7 | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Syphilis ... | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ... | 8 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease ... | 236 | — | — | 1 | — | 13 | 95 | 72 | 54 | 116 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 46 | 36 | 31 |
| Diabetes ... | 13 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 6 | — | 16 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ... | 103 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 24 | 39 | 38 | 69 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 10 | 26 | 32 |
| Heart Disease ... | 369 | — | — | — | 2 | 22 | 81 | 113 | 142 | 192 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 9 | 36 | 64 | 82 |
| Aneurysm ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... | 112 | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | 39 | 60 | 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | 12 | 29 |
| Bronchitis ... | 76 | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | 25 | 15 | 32 | 34 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 6 | 21 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 89 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 21 | 13 | 9 | 42 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 11 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 4 |
| Peptic Ulcer ... | 19 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 1 | — |
| Diarrhoea, etc. ... | 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | 10 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Appendicitis ... | 16 | — | — | — | — | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ... | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | 15 | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases ... | 31 | 2 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 17 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | 10 | — | — |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... | 45 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 | 15 | 15 | 9 | 31 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Sepsis ... | 8 | — | — | — | — | 7 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Puerperal Causes ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.... | 62 | 62 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 27 | 26 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Senility ... | 97 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 18 | 79 | 56 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 6 | 49 |
| Suicide ... | 31 | — | — | — | — | 7 | 18 | 3 | — | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Other Violence ... | 71 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 54 | 4 | 1 | — | — | 6 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| Other Defined Diseases... | 134 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 34 | 23 | 30 | 80 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 22 | 17 | 17 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown... | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| TOTALS : ALL CAUSES ... | 1764 | 103 | 14 | 35 | 45 | 170 | 434 | 396 | 490 | 910 | 44 | 44 | 5 | 9 | 25 | 31 | 78 | 10 | 221 | 307 |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF
THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1934.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTALS | |
|--|----------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Amphill | | Bedford | | Biggleswade | | Dunstable Borough | Kempston Urban | Leighton Buzzard Urban | Luton | | Sandy Urban | U.D.'s, 1934 | R.D.'s, 1934 |
| | Urban | Rural | Borough | Rural | Urban | Rural | | | | Borough | Rural | | | |
| Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Measles | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 4 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 5 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | — | 5 | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | 4 | — | 1 | 32 | — | — | 38 | 10 |
| Influenza | — | 4 | 7 | 8 | — | 1 | 7 | — | 2 | 13 | 5 | — | 29 | 18 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of Resp. System... | 1 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 56 | 9 | 2 | 88 | 31 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | — | 1 | 7 | 4 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 13 | 2 | — | 23 | 7 |
| Syphilis | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| General Paralysis of the Insane | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tabes Dorsalis | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 6 | — | — | 8 | 3 |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | 6 | 25 | 77 | 43 | 9 | 30 | 24 | 7 | 16 | 95 | 18 | 2 | 236 | 116 |
| Diabetes | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | — | — | 1 | 5 | 2 | — | 13 | 16 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. | — | 25 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 22 | 9 | 1 | 11 | 53 | 13 | 4 | 103 | 69 |
| Heart Disease | 5 | 53 | 119 | 64 | 5 | 46 | 23 | 18 | 13 | 183 | 29 | 3 | 369 | 192 |
| Aneurysm | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | — | 8 | 64 | 29 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 112 | 48 |
| Bronchitis | — | 9 | 25 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 10 | — | 4 | 28 | 11 | 1 | 76 | 34 |
| Pneumonia (all forms)... | 1 | 10 | 18 | 11 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 50 | 6 | 1 | 89 | 42 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | — | 1 | 4 | 2 | — | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | 5 | — | — | 11 | 7 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | 7 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 6 |
| Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 5 | 3 |
| Appendicitis | — | 2 | 7 | — | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | 5 | 2 | — | 16 | 4 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 5 | 3 |
| Other Diseases of Liver, etc. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | 9 | 5 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 5 | — | 39 | 24 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 2 | 15 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 45 | 31 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 8 | 3 |
| Other Puerperal Causes | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | 4 | 3 |
| Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.... | — | 3 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 32 | 10 | — | 62 | 27 |
| Senility | — | 11 | 12 | 20 | 3 | 16 | 12 | — | 6 | 60 | 9 | 4 | 97 | 56 |
| Suicide | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 20 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 6 |
| Other Violence | — | 18 | 18 | 15 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 31 | 11 | 4 | 71 | 54 |
| Other Defined Diseases... | 2 | 18 | 41 | 32 | 6 | 22 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 68 | 8 | 1 | 134 | 80 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown... | — | 5 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 8 | 7 |
| TOTALS : ALL CAUSES ... | 24 | 235 | 510 | 300 | 57 | 216 | 144 | 70 | 82 | 840 | 159 | 37 | 1764 | 910 |

A comparative statement showing the chief causes of death in 1933 and 1934 is set out below :—

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | 1933 | 1934 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Heart Disease | 503 | 561 |
| Cancer | 409 | 352 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 172 | 172 |
| Arterio-sclerosis and other Circulatory Diseases | 158 | 161 |
| Pneumonia | 109 | 131 |
| Tuberculosis (pulmonary) | 132 | 119 |
| Bronchitis | 107 | 110 |
| Influenza | 119 | 47 |
| TOTAL | 1,709 | 1,653 |

As in the previous year, the above-named causes of death were responsible for considerably more than half the deaths occurring in the County during 1934.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 live births and forms the record known as the rate of infantile mortality.

The death-rates per 1,000 of the live births for the Administrative County, the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years are given below :—

| LOCALITIES. | INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 42.5 | 58.0 | 53.3 | 45.3 | 47.5 |
| Rural Districts | 52.8 | 42.8 | 48.8 | 43.3 | 39.6 |
| Administrative County | 46.3 | 52.3 | 51.6 | 44.5 | 44.8 |
| England & Wales | 60.0 | 66.0 | 65.0 | 64.0 | 59.0 |

It will be observed that the satisfactory low rate of infantile mortality is being maintained and bears favourable comparison with that for the Country as a whole.

Ten of the deaths were of illegitimate children. These furnished a rate of infantile mortality of 71.4 per thousand illegitimate live births as compared with 80.6 in 1933.

The deaths of infants under one year of age amount to 5.5 per cent of the total number of deaths at all ages, as against 5.1 per cent in the preceding year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The number of deaths occurring from accidents and diseases due to pregnancy and parturition was 18, eleven of these deaths being attributed to puerperal sepsis.

The following table shows the maternal death-rate for the County, compared with that of England and Wales, for the last three years :—

| | Year. | Live Births Registered. | No. of Maternal Deaths. | Rates per 1,000 Live Births registered. | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Puerperal Sepsis. | Other Puerperal Causes. | Total Puerperal Mortality. |
| Bedfordshire ... | 1932 | 3,140 | 11 | 0.95 | 2.54 | 3.50 |
| | 1933 | 2,988 | 12 | 0.67 | 3.35 | 4.02 |
| | 1934 | 3,280 | 18 | 3.35 | 2.13 | 5.48 |
| England & Wales | 1932 | 613,972 | 2,587 | 1.61 | 2.63 | 4.24 |
| | 1933 | 580,413 | 2,618 | 1.79 | 2.63 | 4.42 |
| | 1934 | 597,642 | 2,748 | 2.03 | 2.57 | 4.60 |

It will be seen from the above table that the death rates for Puerperal Fever and other puerperal causes have increased not only in Bedfordshire but in the country as a whole.

In Circular 1433, issued by the Ministry of Health on 10th October, 1934, on the subject of Maternal Mortality, various suggestions are put forward for improving and developing the maternity services of local authorities.

The Minister states that:—

“ In spite of what has been done during the past three years to improve and develop the maternity services, the maternal mortality rate has not yet begun to fall. The Minister recognises that it could not be expected that the full effect of the measures which have been taken would so soon be reflected in the mortality statistics. At the same time, he finds that there are still many areas in which the maternity service is neither complete nor satisfactory, and there are few, if any, in which there is not scope for further improvement. In all areas there is probably need for more intensive efforts to educate women as to the importance of ante-natal supervision and to persuade them to make use of the facilities provided for this purpose.”

and draws attention to the importance of (1) improving the ante-natal service; (2) ensuring that the services of a trained midwife are available for all confinements; (3) securing the provision of maternity beds for complicated cases and for patients with unsuitable home conditions, such beds to be associated where practicable with general hospitals, preferably in small units readily super-

vised, and for which prompt specialist services for serious cases may be made available; (4) providing facilities for the adequate isolation and separate nursing of cases of puerperal sepsis; and (5) obtaining the services of a consultant for doctors needing assistance in difficult or complicated cases.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts Committee have given, and continue to give, careful consideration to the problem of the reduction of maternal mortality and conditions likely to cause impairment of the health of mothers.

Through the agency of the County Nursing Association, trained midwives are available in most districts, and each year there is a decrease in the number of districts in which there is no midwife. No efforts are being spared to hasten the time when a trained midwife will be available in every part of the County.

The Committee have appointed Mr. John Ellison, F.R.C.S., as their consultant. His services are available for any doctor in the Council's area who finds it necessary to call in a consultant in connection with midwifery work.

The Bedford County Hospital affords accommodation in its maternity wards for difficult and complicated cases. During the past year 64 cases were treated in these wards under the Council's Scheme.

The provision for the adequate isolation and separate nursing of cases of puerperal sepsis is not as complete as one would desire. Proposals are under consideration for the extension and improvement of this accommodation at the Public Assistance Hospitals at Bedford and Luton.

These provisions form parts of larger schemes for the enlargement, etc., of these two Institutions. It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to commence the necessary work at an early date.

SENILE MORTALITY.

The following table shows the senile mortality in the Urban and Rural Districts, as indicated by the percentage of deaths over 65 years of age to total deaths :—

| LOCALITIES. | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS. | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts ... | 51.7 | 50.0 | 51.7 | 50.2 |
| Rural Districts ... | 56.9 | 59.2 | 59.0 | 58.1 |
| The County ... | 53.7 | 53.6 | 54.2 | 52.9 |

The many persons dying at over 65 years of age is evidence of the fact that a high proportion of the population survives to a good age.

HEART DISEASE.

There were 561 deaths from heart disease as compared with 503 in the previous year. It is the chief cause of death in Bedfordshire, as elsewhere. 86.4 per cent of the deaths occurred in persons over the age of 55.

The following are the death rates from heart disease for 1934 in Bedfordshire :—

| | | |
|-----------------|------|----------------------------|
| Urban Districts | 2.41 | per thousand of population |
| Rural Districts | 2.53 | „ „ |
| Whole County | 2.45 | „ „ |

The real origin of many of these deaths, and of an appreciable amount of invalidity through life, is rheumatism in childhood, which damages the heart. This important fact is becoming more generally realised and measures both for prevention and treatment are in operation throughout the Country. Exposure, inadequate sustenance, inadequate clothing, particularly in the matter of footwear, and ill-ventilated and damp living and sleeping rooms, are all factors which may predispose to this disease in childhood.

It is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of early and efficient treatment of children found to be suffering from rheumatic affections.

CANCER.

I am happy to be able to report that during the year 1934 there was a considerable decrease in the number of persons dying from Cancer in the County notwithstanding the fact that the population increased by about four thousand during that period.

In the administrative County 352 deaths were certified in 1934 as due to Cancer or other malignant disease, as against 409 in 1933. 82.9 per cent. of the deaths occurred in persons over the age of 55.

The figures for the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton both show a reduction in the number of deaths, whereas, in the case of the Borough of Dunstable, a small increase is shown.

The improvement is best demonstrated by the Cancer Death Rate for Bedfordshire which has fallen from 1.81 to 1.53 per thousand.

In view of the fact that the death rate for Cancer for England and Wales unfortunately again has risen, too much importance must not be attributed to the decrease which happily has shown itself during the past year in Bedfordshire.

Until such time as the cause or causes of Cancer are known no general reduction in the death rate can be anticipated. The importance of patients suffering from, or who fear they may be suffering from, Cancer seeking medical advice at the earliest possible moment, when there is a chance of cure, cannot be over-emphasised. It is still the common experience of surgeons that patients, suffering from Cancer in a part of the body where this growth can be easily removed, present themselves for the first time so late that there is no possibility of cure.

The following table gives the mean figures for the last four quinquennial periods and also the figures for 1934 :—

| DISTRICTS. | MEAN OF 5 YEARS 1912-1916 | MEAN OF 5 YEARS 1917-1921 | MEAN OF 5 YEARS 1922-1926 | MEAN OF 5 YEARS 1927-1931 | 1934 |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| URBAN :— | | | | | |
| Amphill ... | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Bedford ... | 41 | 52 | 54 | 67 | 77 |
| Biggleswade | 10 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| Dunstable ... | 11 | 14 | 14 | 17 | 24 |
| Kempston ... | 5 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 7 |
| Leighton | | | | | |
| Buzzard ... | 11 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 16 |
| Luton ... | 48 | 52 | 71 | 87 | 95 |
| Sandy ... | <i>(Included in Biggleswade Rural prior to 1927)</i> | | | 7 | 2 |
| Totals | 129 | 146 | 167 | 214 | 236 |
| RURAL :— | | | | | |
| Amphill ... | 29 | 30 | 35 | 36 | 25 |
| Bedford ... | 29 | 26 | 34 | 37 | 43 |
| Biggleswade | 29 | 33 | 41 | 38 | 30 |
| Eaton Bray | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | * |
| Eaton Socon | 4 | 7 | 5 | 5 | † |
| Luton ... | 9 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 18 |
| Totals | 105 | 116 | 133 | 132 | 116 |
| Grand Totals | 234 | 262 | 300 | 346 | 352 |

* Included in Luton R.D. † Included in Bedford R.D.

The Cancer death-rates per thousand of the population living for the Administrative County and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales, were as follows :—

| | DEATH RATE. | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|------|
| | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934 |
| Urban Districts ... | 1.54 | 1.62 | 1.84 | 1.54 |
| Rural Districts ... | 1.83 | 1.80 | 1.75 | 1.53 |
| Administrative County | 1.64 | 1.68 | 1.81 | 1.53 |
| England and Wales ... | 1.48 | 1.51 | 1.52 | 1.56 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of cases of Infectious Disease received during the year 1934,
under Article 14 (2) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

| | Administrative Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------|
| | Ampthill | | Bedford | | Biggleswade | | Dunstable Urban | Kempston Urban | Leighton Buzzard Urban | Luton | | Sandy Urban | TOTALS |
| | Urban | Rural | Borough | Rural | Urban | Rural | | | | Borough | Rural | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 6 | 111 | 115 | 67 | 2 | 20 | 19 | 44 | 23 | 114 | 12 | 4 | 537 |
| Diphtheria including Mem- branous Croup | 6 | 48 | 7 | 6 | — | 5 | 31 | 1 | 34 | 415 | 24 | — | 577 |
| Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid) ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 5 |
| Pneumonia | — | 16 | 63 | 22 | 12 | 49 | 12 | 2 | 28 | 32 | 11 | — | 247 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Polio-Myelitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Dysentery... .. | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum... | — | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 5 | — | — | 24 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 6 | 20 | 15 | 3 | 12 | 3 | — | 4 | 46 | 5 | 1 | 116 |
| Puerperal Fever | — | — | 15 | 3 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 12 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | 2 | 10 | — | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 24 |
| Malaria | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cholera | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 13 | 185 | 240 | 119 | 18 | 94 | 68 | 47 | 93 | 631 | 56 | 7 | 1571 |

When this table is compared with that of the previous year it will be seen that there was a large increase in the prevalence of Diphtheria.

Small increases are shown in the number of cases of Erysipelas, Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum as compared with the previous year.

Decreases are shown in the number of cases of Pneumonia and Enteric Fever.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was much less prevalent during 1934 than in the previous year. The number of deaths from this disease fell from 119 to 47.

The County death-rate from influenza was 0.20 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 0.14. per thousand.

SMALL POX.

The County was entirely free from Smallpox during the year 1934.

DIPHTHERIA.

577 cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Administrative County during 1934 as against 157 in 1933, the disease being most prevalent in the months of July, November and December. There were 48 deaths, 32 of which occurred in the Borough of Luton. As will be seen from the Table on page 14, with one exception all the deaths were of children under the age of fifteen. The County death-rate for 1934 was 0.21.

| DISTRICTS. | DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.25 |
| Rural Districts | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.13 |
| The County ... | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.21 |

The death-rate for England and Wales for 1934 was 0.10 as compared with 0.06 in the previous year.

An examination of the notifications of Diphtheria throughout the County shows that the large increase in the incidence of this disease was due to its prevalence in the southern portion of the County, particularly the industrial areas. Approximately 70% of the total number of cases notified occurred in the Borough of Luton.

Dr. W. Archibald, the Medical Officer of Health for Luton, has favoured me with a copy of a special report on the prevalence of diphtheria within the Borough of Luton during the period September, 1933, to January, 1935, in which he states :—

“ 1. Diphtheria has been unusually prevalent in Luton since the beginning of 1934. In 1932 and 1933 the incidence was small, but in November, 1933, there was a sudden increase in the number of cases notified and this increase has persisted until the present. During 1934, the weekly returns showed

two peaks, the first in March and the second in November, the lowest point in the curve being in the week ending May 19th, when only one case was notified.

2. The disease attacked certain districts of the Town, and as it died out in one area it appeared in another. Thus, in May we had Limbury involved, then it spread to High Town and Stopsley, and of late most of the cases have occurred in the latter area which has only recently been added to the Borough and where the majority of the houses are, as yet, unsewered.

3. The type of the disease has varied. Most of the cases have been of a mild nature requiring bacteriological examination for a diagnosis, and there has been a large preponderance of nasal infections. Delay in sending for medical help was responsible for most of the fatal results. Of the twenty-eight deaths in the hospital, nine occurred within twenty-four hours of admission, and in two instances, where removal was asked for, the children were found to be moribund.

4. On the receipt of notification of a case, a visit is paid by one of the Inspectors who completes an enquiry card in full detail, and then reports the result of his visit to the Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer then decides how the case is to be disposed of—hospital or home. Of the 551 cases notified, 433, or 78.6% were removed to hospital.”

Dr. Archibald carried out an extensive inquiry into the milk supplies in the Borough from which he formed the opinion that “milk has played no part in the spread of the disease,” but that :—

“It is abundantly illustrated that the spread of the disease in the town has been due to the following factors all working together :—

- (a) The mild unrecognised, often nasal cases.
- (b) Failure to call in medical help early enough.
- (c) An attempt on the part of some parents to hide the condition.
- (d) The time wasted in waiting for swab results.”

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 3 deaths from Scarlet Fever in the Administrative County in 1934 ; 2 in the Biggleswade Rural District, and 1 in the Kempston Urban District.

| DISTRICTS. | DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Rural Districts | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.03 |
| The County ... | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.01 |

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1934 was the same as in the previous year, namely 0.02.

The disease which was as prevalent in Bedfordshire as in the previous year, reached its peak in the month of October. During this month 69 cases were notified.

ENTERIC FEVER.

(including Typhoid and Paratyphoid).

There were 5 cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1934. There were 3 deaths from this condition.

| DISTRICTS. | DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| Rural Districts | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| The County ... | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.01 |

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1934 was 0.00 as compared with 0.01 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were eleven deaths from Puerperal Sepsis in the Administrative County in 1934. The death-rate, expressed as a rate per 1,000 registered live births, was 3.35, as compared with the rate of 2.03 for England and Wales.

During the year 24 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified and 35 cases of Puerperal Fever as against 18 and 11 respectively in 1933.

MEASLES.

Measles was less prevalent in the County than during the previous year. As this disease is not notifiable in this County, the number of cases occurring is unknown, but the returns furnished in connection with the School Medical Service have given information as to the localities in which measles has been prevalent amongst the children attending the elementary schools.

There were five deaths from Measles in the Administrative County during 1934 as compared with 8 in 1933 ; representing a death rate for the County of 0.02.

| DISTRICTS. | DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.03 |
| Rural Districts | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| The County ... | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.02 |

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1934 was 0.09 as compared with 0.05 in the previous year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Twenty-four cases of this disease, which, through neglect of treatment, is one of the chief causes of blindness, were notified during the year—as compared with 14 during the preceding year. All the infants received prompt treatment and made a complete recovery.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

There were no cases of this disease in the Administrative County during 1934.

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS.

One case of acute Polio-myelitis was notified in the County in 1934. No death occurred.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One death from this disease occurred in the Administrative County in 1934. No other cases were notified.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping cough was not so prevalent as in 1933.

There were six deaths in the Administrative County in 1934 representing a death rate for the County of 0.03. Five deaths occurred in children under five years of age.

| DISTRICTS. | DEATH RATE. | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.03 |
| Rural Districts | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| The County ... | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 0.03 |

The death rate for England and Wales in 1934 was the same as in the previous year, namely, 0.05.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.

There were eight deaths from these causes among children under two years of age. The death-rate is expressed as the proportion which the deaths under two years of age from this disease form to a thousand live births. For the County the rate is 2.4, which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales (5.5).

The protection of food from flies and dust both before and after delivery to the consumer, cleanliness in the home and feeding utensils, the covering and frequent removal of household rubbish, are of the utmost importance in preventing these diseases. These precautions are particularly necessary in hot dry weather.

The delivery of milk in bottles, and the increasing custom of delivering food stuffs wrapped in some protective covering, is much to be commended.

It may be well to remind consumers that care is necessary to protect the milk from contamination after its delivery.

Immediately the bottles have been emptied they should be well rinsed and under no circumstances used for other purposes.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.

There were 149 deaths registered from this cause in the Administrative County in 1934, being 5.6 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes, as compared with the previous year's total of 157 and 6.0 per cent respectively.

The following table shows the Phthisis death-rates per 1,000 population for the County and the Urban and Rural Districts —

| DISTRICTS. | Phthisis Death Rate per thousand population | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|
| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| Urban Districts | 0.71 | 0.79 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.57 |
| Rural Districts | 0.78 | 0.64 | 0.46 | 0.39 | 0.41 |
| Administrative County | 0.73 | 0.74 | 0.61 | 0.58 | 0.52 |

As will be seen from the above table, the phthisis death rate for the County for 1934 was 0.52, which is the lowest death rate ever recorded in Bedfordshire for this disease.

The Phthisis death-rate for England and Wales in 1934 was 0.63.

The County death-rate from Tuberculosis (all forms) per thousand of the population was 0.65, that for the combined Urban Districts being 0.72, and that for the combined Rural Districts being 0.50.

As will be seen from the table on the following page the greatest number of deaths occurred in males between the ages of 25 and 55 and in females between the ages of 25 and 35.

The following new cases of tuberculosis were notified, in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during 1934.:—

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----|-------|
| Pulmonary | Males | 110 | |
| | Females | 84 | |
| | | — | 194 |
| Non-Pulmonary | Males | 18 | |
| | Females | 31 | |
| | | — | 49 |
| | | | — 243 |

The total number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was exactly the same as in the previous year, whilst the Non-pulmonary cases showed an increase of 8.

The pulmonary figures for the last two years have been the lowest since 1912, when tuberculosis was made a notifiable disease.

The following table shows the age periods of the new cases and all deaths from the disease in the Administrative County during 1934 :—

| AGE PERIODS. | NEW CASES NOTIFIED | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | PULMONARY | | NON-PULMONARY | | PULMONARY | | NON-PULMONARY | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | — | — | 2 | — |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | — | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 10 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| 15 | 5 | 8 | — | 3 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | 16 | 20 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 10 | — | — |
| 25 | 26 | 28 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 2 | 4 |
| 35 | 19 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 1 | — |
| 45 | 18 | 13 | — | 1 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 55 | 10 | 3 | — | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 65 and upwards | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| TOTALS ... | 110 | 84 | 18 | 31 | 54 | 65 | 16 | 14 |

39 other cases (25 males and 14 females) came to the notice of your Medical Officer other than by notification as required by the Regulations, *e.g.*, Death Returns, etc.

The importance in the interest of all concerned, of an early diagnosis and notification of this disease cannot be over-emphasized. Where a definite diagnosis of a suspected case is in doubt the Tuberculosis Officers appointed under the County Tuberculosis Scheme are available for consultation, and full facilities are provided for assistance in diagnosis.

If in any particular case, the practitioner considers that the circumstances are such as to render it unnecessary or contrary to the interests of the patient for the home to be visited by an Official Medical Officer, any such visits would be dispensed with by arrangement with the Officer concerned.

As in the previous year, approximately 70 per cent. of the new cases notified were examined by the Council's Tuberculosis Officers.

The number of cases remaining on the Register of Notifications on December 31st, 1934, was 1,633 pulmonary (802 males and 831 females) and 610 non-pulmonary (300 males and 310 females) making a total of 2,243.

The total number on the Registers on the last day of the previous year was 2,375.

During the year 182 cases were removed from the Register as "Recovered from the disease."

These figures show that approximately 10 per 1,000 of the population of Bedfordshire were known to be suffering from tuberculosis last year.

Dispensaries.

For Dispensary purposes, the County is divided into three areas, namely, Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

The Dispensaries are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

| Dispensary at | Day | Time |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Dents Road, Bedford | Thursday ... | 10.30—12.30 |
| St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade | Tuesday ... | 11—1 |
| 17, Church Street, Luton ... | Tuesday (Children) | 12—1 |
| | ,, (Men) | 2—5 |
| | Thursday (Women) | 2.30—5 |

The premises in Harpur Street, Bedford, used as the Dispensary for the Bedford area, were vacated on the 19th February, 1935, and the new Dispensary in Dents Road, was opened to the public for the first session on the 21st February, 1935. The new building has been erected on land belonging to the County Council and comprises a lobby, patients' waiting room, changing rooms, consulting room and laboratory.

The Dispensaries continue to be well attended, both by patients in need of supervision and others seeking advice as to their health. The number of old patients visiting the Dispensaries for periodical examination is highly satisfactory, thus greatly helping in the keeping of an accurate Register of Patients, since all cases are reviewed each year as to progress, fitness for work, etc.

On January 1st, 1934, the total number of names on the Registers of the three Dispensaries was 1,285

During the year the following cases were added :—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| "Lost sight of" cases returned | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| From other Counties | ... | ... | ... | 11 |

New Cases examined and found to be :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Definitely Tuberculous | ... | ... | ... | 165 |
| Doubtfully Tuberculous | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Non-tuberculous | ... | ... | ... | 372 |

Contacts examined and found to be :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Definitely Tuberculous | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Non-tuberculous | ... | ... | ... | 138 |

1,989

Of this number 865 were written off for the following reasons :—

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Recovered... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 193 |
| Non-tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 514 |
| Transferred to other Counties or " Lost sight of " | | | | | | 69 |
| Dead (all causes) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 89 |
| | | | | | | ----- 865 |
| Number remaining on 31st December, 1934 | ... | | | | | ----- 1,124 |

The number of cases remaining on the Registers at the end of 1934 was therefore 1,124, classified as follows :—

| DIAGNOSIS | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| NOT COMPLETED | | | PULMONARY | | | NON-PULMONARY | | |
| <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> | <i>Children</i> | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> | <i>Children</i> | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> | <i>Children</i> |
| — | 1 | — | 390 | 417 | 102 | 49 | 61 | 104 |

The number of attendances at the Dispensaries during 1934 (including contacts) was 2,668, and 3,101 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Nurse and the Council's Health Visitors.

All cases on the Dispensary Register are visited from time to time by the Council's Health Visitors, and visits and examinations are made by the Tuberculosis Officers as and when required.

During the year 380 consultations took place with medical practitioners, 30 of which were at the homes of the patients, and in addition 403 visits were paid to patients at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officers.

735 specimens of sputum were examined, the results being as follows :—Positive 217, Negative 518.

451 Domiciliary Reports on Progress (Form G.P. 36) were received during the year from Panel practitioners with regard to insured persons suffering from tuberculosis. The number of insured persons under domiciliary treatment on 31st December, 1934, was 158.

Arrangements were made for two patients suffering from lupus to receive treatment at the Institute of Ray Therapy in Luton. This Institute was opened at the beginning of 1934 under the direction of Dr. W. H. Beaumont. The Institute is purely philanthropic in character. Its object is to enable doctors to prescribe

Electro-Therapy for their poor patients and those of small means. The latest report shows that the Institute is fulfilling a useful purpose. Your Committee takes advantage of the facilities offered whenever possible.

By an arrangement with the Bedford County Hospital and the Bute Hospital, Luton, X-Ray examinations in connection with the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme, are made at these Hospitals. During 1934, 91 such examinations were made.

As in previous years, the Ministry of Pensions have made use of the services of your County Medical Officer as Tuberculosis Referee for the Bedfordshire area. Cases have been referred to me for examination and report by the Ministry of Pensions ; and the local Area Officers of the Ministry have received reports from me as to the condition, progress, etc., of Pensioners suffering from Tuberculosis, and recommendations as to the form of treatment most appropriate in each case.

Extra Nourishment.

As in past years extra nourishment has been granted to suitable cases, all applications being investigated by a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. 31 patients received grants during the year, the periods varying according to circumstances. Every effort is made to see that the milk supplied is of an approved quality, and wherever possible " Grade A " milk is given. In all 11,648 pints of milk and 6,033 eggs were distributed to necessitous tuberculous patients during the financial year ended 31st March, 1935, at a total cost of £188 19s. 0d. as compared with £149 17s. 11d. in the previous twelve months.

Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium.

Institutional treatment for cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis, and suitable cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (glandular) is provided at the Council's Sanatorium, situated at Mogerhanger Park. The Sanatorium has accommodation for 84 beds ; 39 male, 39 female, and 6 children. During the year 1934, 112 cases completed treatment at the Sanatorium. Two other cases were admitted for observation and subsequently discharged as non-tuberculous. In 77 cases the disease was either arrested or the condition much improved. Owing to the fact that cases in all stages of Tuberculosis are admitted to the Sanatorium, 20 failed to improve, and 15 died in the Institution. One valuable means of lessening the spread of Tuberculosis is by removing persons seriously affected with the disease from their homes to the

Sanatorium ; this arrangement results in increased comfort to the sufferer, and greater security to other members of the household.

The County Dentists continue to visit the Sanatorium to attend those patients who are found to be in need of dental treatment.

The average cost of treatment per patient during the financial year ended 31st March, 1934, was £2 10s. 6d. per week. The average number of beds occupied during this period was 59.

The following table shows the condition at the end of 1934 of all patients who have received treatment at the Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium since it was opened on the 18th November, 1921 :—

| Condition as at 31st December, 1934. | CLASSIFICATION ON ADMISSION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES. |
|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| | Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | | | | | | | | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | | |
| | Early. | | | Intermediate. | | | Advanced. | | | Total. | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | Tot | |
| | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | | M. | F. | Ch. | | |
| <i>Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/26—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered ... | 23 | 32 | 22 | 10 | 17 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 106 | ... | 1 | 10 | 11 | 117 |
| Disease Quiescent ... | 17 | 16 | 10 | 14 | 7 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 65 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 71 |
| Disease Active ... | 6 | 3 | ... | 5 | 4 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 20 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 22 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Patient Dead ... | 59 | 39 | 5 | 90 | 37 | 3 | 29 | 13 | 3 | 278 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | 280 |
| Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of | 17 | 38 | 8 | 9 | 19 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 93 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 101 |
| Total ... | 122 | 128 | 45 | 128 | 84 | 4 | 33 | 15 | 3 | 562 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 29 | 597 |
| <i>Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/31 —</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered ... | 13 | 17 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 52 | ... | 2 | 22 | 24 | 76 |
| Disease Quiescent ... | 41 | 58 | 37 | 13 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 159 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 34 | 193 |
| Disease Active ... | 13 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 | 60 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Patient Dead ... | 60 | 55 | 3 | 98 | 60 | ... | 34 | 23 | 1 | 334 | 1 | ... | 2 | 3 | 337 |
| Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of | 22 | 22 | 11 | 11 | 14 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 81 | ... | 1 | 8 | 9 | 90 |
| Total ... | 149 | 165 | 71 | 137 | 99 | 2 | 35 | 23 | 1 | 682 | 2 | 5 | 67 | 74 | 757 |

| Condition as at 31st December, 1934. | CLASSIFICATION ON ADMISSION. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES. |
|--|------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| | Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | | | | | | | | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | | |
| | Early. | | | Intermediate. | | | Advanced. | | | Total. | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | | | Tot | |
| | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | M. | F. | Ch. | | M. | F. | Ch. | | |
| <i>Discharged during 1932—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recovered | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Disease Quiescent ... | 11 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 35 |
| Disease Active ... | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 18 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 19 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Patient Dead ... | 5 | 3 | ... | 11 | 16 | ... | 13 | 15 | ... | 63 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 64 |
| Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Total | 19 | 15 | 10 | 21 | 23 | 1 | 15 | 15 | ... | 119 | 2 | ... | 3 | 5 | 125 |
| <i>Discharged during 1933—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disease Quiescent ... | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 32 | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 | 36 |
| Disease Active ... | 4 | ... | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 17 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Patient Dead ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 2 | ... | 9 | 12 | ... | 32 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of | 1 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Total | 9 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 13 | ... | 85 | ... | 1 | 4 | 5 | 90 |
| <i>Discharged during 1934—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disease Quiescent ... | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 34 | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 37 |
| Disease Active ... | 6 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 13 | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | 46 | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 48 |
| Non-Tuberculous ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Patient Dead ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 7 | ... | 4 | 8 | ... | 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Transferred to other Areas or lost sight of | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total | 11 | 9 | 8 | 32 | 29 | ... | 6 | 12 | ... | 107 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 114 |

The results shown compare very favourably with those published by other similar Institutions.

Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62.

It was not found necessary during 1934 to apply for any Orders under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis; cases of the disease specified under this Section having voluntarily agreed to removal to the Council's Institution.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases of Tuberculosis of the bones, joints, etc., in adults and children are dealt with by securing their admission to Institutions recognised by the Ministry of Health for this purpose. Among those made use of by the Council are the following :—

Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate.
Creaton Sanatorium, Northamptonshire.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Country Branch), Stanmore.

Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton.

United Services Fund Hospital, Heatherwood, Ascot.

St. Martin's Orthopaedic Hospital, Pyrford.

St. George's Convalescent Branch Hospital, Wimbledon.

Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

Victoria Home, Margate.

Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridge.

Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony, Frimley.

It will be observed that some of these Institutions are at a considerable distance from Bedfordshire, and the travelling expenses to and from these Institutions are, therefore, somewhat high. In cases where the patients are unable to meet these costs, the whole or part is paid by the County Council.

In cases where the circumstances of the patients make it impossible for them to bear the cost of surgical appliances, the necessary expenditure is met by the County Council.

Shelters.

The Council own seventeen Shelters which are loaned to suitable patients. At the end of the year fifteen were in use.

This provision has proved of great service, particularly to patients who have become accustomed to sleeping in plenty of fresh air whilst in sanatoria. Special visits are made to patients to whom shelters have been loaned to ascertain that they are being used for the purpose for which they are supplied.

Residential Treatment.

The following Table shows the extent of institutional treatment (other than in Public Assistance Institutions) afforded to Bedfordshire patients :—

| | | | | In Insti- tutions on 1/1/34 | Admitted during the year | Disch'ged during the year | Died in Insti- tutions | Remain- ing in on 31/12/34 |
|----------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adults | Men | ... | ... | 34 | 54 | 54 | 7 | 27 |
| | Women | ... | ... | 29 | 59 | 49 | 10 | 29 |
| Children | ... | ... | ... | 19 | 22 | 26 | — | 15 |
| Total | | | | 82 | 135 | 129 | 17 | 71 |

Of the total of 71 patients remaining in Institutions on the 31st December, 1934, 47 were receiving treatment in the Council's Sanatorium at Mogerhanger. The remainder were receiving treatment in one or other of the Institutions named on pages 33 and 34.

On comparing these figures with those of the previous year, it is seen that the number of patients admitted to Institutions during 1934 was 13 more than the number admitted during 1933.

The average length of treatment of pulmonary cases treated at Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium (i.e. the cases discharged during 1934) was as follows :—

Men. 26 weeks 4 days.
 Women. 30 weeks, 3 days.
 Children. 37 weeks, 4 days.

With regard to cases of surgical tuberculosis treated in other Institutions the average length of treatment of the cases discharged during 1934 was :—

Men. 53 weeks, 5 days.
 Women. 46 weeks, 4 days.
 Children. 85 weeks, 4 days.

28 persons suffering from tuberculosis received treatment in the Public Assistance Institutions during the year. When advisable arrangements are made for the transfer of the patients to the Sanatorium ; in some instances complications render such transfer impossible.

General.

The closest co-operation exists between your Tuberculosis Officers and the School Medical Officers in the County ; all children found by the latter either to be suffering from Tuberculosis, or suspected to be so affected, are referred to the Tuberculosis Officers for examination and necessary action.

The same co-operation exists with regard to the general Hospitals at Bedford and Luton. I am gratified to be able to report that the medical practitioners of Bedfordshire continue to make full use of the facilities afforded them under the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of expressing to them my sincere thanks for their valuable help, and testifying to the cordial relations which exist between them and the Public Health Department.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There has been no material change during the year in the arrangements made for the treatment of Venereal diseases.

The Clinics are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

| CLINIC AT | DAY | TIME |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Bedford County Hospital ... | Wednesdays ... | ... Women, 5.30—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m. |
| | Fridays ... | ... Women 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15—4.15 p.m. |
| Bute Hospital Luton ... | Wednesdays | ... Women, 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. |
| | Fridays ... | ... Women, 5.30—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m. |

Intermediate treatment is carried out at Bedford on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 8 ; and at Luton on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30.

For the purpose of comparison, the following tables are inserted, showing the principal statistics for each area for the last five years :—

BEDFORD.

| Year | New Cases. | | | | Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc. | Wasser- man Tests | Total attend- ances of all Patients |
|------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--|-------------------------|---|
| | Syphilis | Gonor- rhoea | Non V.D. | Total | | | |
| 1930 | 31 | 48 | 19 | 98 | 405 | 74 | 1551 |
| 1931 | 23 | 52 | 18 | 94 | 432 | 51 | 1696 |
| 1932 | 21 | 52 | 14 | 87 | 956 | 88 | 1982 |
| 1933 | 36 | 77 | 8 | 121 | 876 | 130 | 2976 |
| 1934 | 29 | 62 | 21 | 112 | 863 | 117 | 3957 |

LUTON.

| Year | New Cases. | | | | Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc. | Wasser- man Tests | Total attend- ances of all Patients |
|------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|--|-------------------------|---|
| | Syphilis | Gonor- rhoea | Non- V.D. | Total | | | |
| 1930 | 18 | 89 | 39 | 146 | 354 | 92 | 2129 |
| 1931 | 36 | 83 | 31 | 150 | 647 | 84 | 2228 |
| 1932 | 43 | 73 | 26 | 142 | 1357 | 163 | 2601 |
| 1933 | 23 | 87 | 21 | 131 | 1152 | 120 | 3118 |
| 1934 | 13 | 80 | 30 | 123 | 602 | 105 | 2932 |

An examination of the above statistics shows a decrease in the number of cases coming under treatment for the first time during 1934 at both the Bedford and Luton Clinics.

It will be noticed that the Bedford figures show a further increase of approximately 30% on the total attendances for 1933.

It was necessary for two patients (a female, aged 16, and a male aged 13) to receive hospital in-patient treatment. Arrangements were made for both patients to be admitted to the London Lock Hospital.

At the end of 1934, the total number of patients on the books was as follows :—

| | | <i>Syphilis</i> | | <i>Gonorrhoea</i> | | <i>Total</i> | |
|---------|-----|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|--------------|----|
| | | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Bedford | ... | 60 | 28 | 38 | 20 | 98 | 48 |
| Luton | ... | 43 | 25 | 46 | 17 | 89 | 42 |
| | | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | 103 | 53 | 84 | 37 | 187 | 90 |
| | | — | — | — | — | — | — |

(N.B.—Of these cases, 11 of Syphilis and 10 of Gonorrhoea attend the Clinics from outside the County).

It will be seen from the above figures that the total number of persons under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1934, was 277, being an increase of 4 on the previous year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the County can obtain free bacteriological examinations in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever and tuberculosis.

The County Medical Officer undertakes this work so far as Tuberculosis is concerned and outfits are supplied from the Public Health Department on request.

With regard to other examinations the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bedford is supplied with a Laboratory and undertakes the necessary bacteriological work in so far as this Borough is concerned.

In the other Districts arrangements have been made for the work to be done at one of the following Institutions :—

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Ampthill Urban District | } | Dr. R. Wyatt, St. George's Hospital, London. |
| Ampthill Rural District | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | Messrs. Thresh, Beale & Suckling, |
| | | Public Health Laboratory, |
| Bedford Rural District | | Queen Victoria Street, |
| | | London, S.W.1. |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Biggleswade Urban District | } | The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. |
| Biggleswade Rural District | | |
| Sandy Urban District | | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Dunstable Urban District | } | The Clinical Research Association, Watergate House, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2. |
| Kempston Urban District | | |
| Leighton Buzzard Urban District | | |
| Luton Urban District | | |
| Luton Rural District | | |

PROTECTIVE INOCULATIONS.

The protection which can be afforded to the population against the contraction of diphtheria, by the production of artificial immunity against this disease, has been amply demonstrated by work carried out in a large number of places both in England and abroad.

With a view to placing this form of protective treatment within easy reach of the population a Report was submitted by me to the Maternity and Child Welfare &c. Committee as to the advisability and practicability of offering this form of treatment in

connection with the Committee's child welfare service, when the Committee decided that artificial immunity against diphtheria should be offered for children between the ages of 1 and 5 years attending the Infant Welfare Centres.

I also circularised the Medical Officers of Health of each of the Local Sanitary Authorities in the County, enquiring what steps (if any) were being taken, or it was proposed should be taken, to enable the general population to be artificially immunised against diphtheria should they so desire.

All the Medical Officers of Health brought this important matter to the notice of their respective Councils, the position in the various areas being as follows :

Bedford Borough

The subject of artificial immunisation has been considered by the Public Health and Housing Committee of the Council and it has been decided to take no immediate action in rendering this treatment generally available by means of a Municipal clinic, but to be prepared to take such action should the necessity become apparent.

Bedford Rural

The Council has agreed to provide the means for artificial immunity against diphtheria in their area and the Medical Officer of Health is at the present time considering the best means of making this service available to the general public.

Luton Borough

A scheme has been prepared by the Medical Officer of Health and submitted to the Public Health Committee. The subject is receiving consideration.

Leighton Buzzard Urban

The question of immunisation against Diphtheria was brought before the Council by the Medical Officer of Health some time ago. They considered the matter and postponed taking action for the present.

In the **Borough of Dunstable, Sandy Urban District** and the **Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts**, the matter has been reported upon by the Medical Officer of Health and is under consideration.

In the **Kempston Urban District**, the **Amphill Urban District**, and the **Amphill and Luton Rural Districts** the respective Councils have now obtained the consent of the Ministry

of Health to artificial immunity against diphtheria. If any medical practitioners in the Districts wish to immunise any child the Councils will provide the necessary diphtheria toxoid free of charge.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The population of the area served by the Council for Maternity and Child Welfare services is 111,448.

HEALTH VISITING.

During the year, 28,954 visits were paid by the Council's Health Visitors, of which 1,636 were primary visits and 10,240 following-up visits to children under 1 year of age; 16,405 were visits to children of 1 to 5 years of age, and 673 visits were paid to expectant mothers.

The Borough of Bedford Health Visitors paid 7,877 home visits.

The Borough of Luton Health Visitors paid 11,871 home visits, and in addition attended to 1,021 dressings, etc., at the Office.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are twelve Infant Welfare Centres provided or subsidised by the County Council, at each of which one of the Council's Health Visitors is an active worker.

The Council's Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare work attends each Centre with the exception of Woburn and Harrold, once a fortnight.

The following table shows the attendances at the various Centres in the Administrative area :—

| Centre. | No. of Infants who attended the centre for first time during year | | No. of Infants attending during the year who at the end of the year were | | Total attendances of infants | | No. of consultations with Council's Medical Officer. | No. of sessions held during year. |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Under 1 year. | Between 1—5 years. | Under 1 year. | Between 1—5 years. | Under 1 year. | Between 1—5 years. | | |
| Ampthill | 35 | 7 | 33 | 72 | 601 | 870 | 777 | 48 |
| Arlesey | 34 | 5 | 25 | 40 | 259 | 300 | 532 | 23 |
| Biggleswade | 49 | 11 | 35 | 105 | 598 | 658 | 530 | 48 |
| Dunstable | 57 | 19 | 49 | 68 | 783 | 1452 | 684 | 47 |
| Eaton Bray | 16 | — | 12 | 32 | 116 | 169 | 268 | 24 |
| Harrold | 15 | 4 | 14 | 48 | 176 | 314 | †— | 23 |
| Houghton Regis | 14 | 1 | 10 | 27 | 375 | 495 | 463 | 51 |
| Kempston | 65 | 8 | 49 | 106 | 879 | 500 | 622 | 51 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 48 | 18 | 40 | 150 | 737 | 1838 | 624 | 44 |
| Stotfold | 39 | 11 | 36 | 45 | 364 | 447 | 469 | 21 |
| Toddington | 25 | 10 | 20 | 62 | 315 | 665 | 530 | 44 |
| Woburn | 7 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 92 | 177 | †— | 22 |
| Total | 404 | 96 | 330 | 771 | 5295 | 7885 | 5499 | 446 |

† The Council's Medical Officer does not attend at these centres.

Dr. G. K. Bowes (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bedford) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the **Borough of Bedford** Infant Welfare Centres :—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Total attendances during the year | ... | ... | 9,472 |
| No. of individual children attending Welfare Centre | | | 800 |
| No. of individual mothers attending Welfare Centre | | | 637 |
| Ante-Natal attendances | ... | ... | 362 |

Dr. W. Archibald (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Luton) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the Infant Welfare Centres in the **Borough of Luton** :—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| Total attendances during the year | ... | ... | 17,399 |
| No. of individual children attending Welfare Centres | | | 1,705 |
| Ante-Natal attendances | ... | ... | 255 |

MILK GRANTS.

During the financial year, 1933-34, 8,120 pints of milk were supplied to infants and nursing mothers, at a total cost of £93 12s. 9d. as compared with £96 4s. 0d. in the previous twelve months. A special Sub-Committee investigates each case, and grants are discontinued when the child reaches the age of twelve months, or sooner in those instances where the financial circumstances of the parents have sufficiently improved to warrant its withdrawal. Grants were made in 57 cases.

As stated on page 31 wherever possible "Grade A" milk is given.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

During the year under review 64 cases were admitted to the Maternity Department of the County Hospital in accordance with the arrangement made by the County Council with that Institution, as compared with 56 in the previous year. The average duration of stay was 14 days.

Similar arrangements have been made by the Borough of Bedford, and during 1934, 18 cases from that Borough were admitted to the Hospital, as compared with 11 in the previous year.

With regard to the Maternity Home at Luton, the Medical Officer of Health reports :—

" At the end of February 1934 it was found necessary to close the Borough Maternity Home.

The loss of the Home has been acutely felt by many mothers and no time has been lost in preparing for a new and up-to-date Home. It is satisfactory to report that the site has been procured, plans prepared and submitted to the Ministry, and building operations should be commenced at a very early date."

The Bedford and County Girls' Home provides accommodation for ten mothers and their infants. During 1934, 26 cases were admitted, as compared with 18 in 1933. This institution is maintained by the St. Albans' Diocesan Girls' Aid Association to which the County Council contributes an annual sum of £345 16s. 7d. An annual grant is also made by the Bedford Town Council.

The number of maternity cases admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions in the County during the last five years is shown in the following table :—

| INSTITUTION | | | | | *1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Ampthill | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Bedford | | | | | | | | | |
| (St. Peter's Hospital) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61 | 57 | 77 | 77 | 81 |
| Biggleswade | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Luton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 22 |
| Leighton Buzzard | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |

* NOTE : April to 31st December only.

The average duration of stay at St. Peter's Hospital was 18 days, and at the Luton Institution 13 days.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the rural areas, the service of nurse-midwives is secured through the agency of the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association, which has been in existence for thirty-six years. Each District Nursing Association is affiliated to the parent body, and provides the services of a district nurse-midwife, who, of course, holds the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

The necessary expenses of each Association are met by the annual subscriptions of the members, together with other subscriptions and donations, supplemented by the proceeds from local entertainments, jumble sales, etc. In cases where, in spite of these efforts, the income is insufficient, grants are made by the County Nursing Association, which, in turn, receives a grant from the County Council. The grant in respect of the financial year ended 31st March, 1935, amounted to £526 12s. 6d.

The County Nursing Association, in conjunction with the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts Committee of the Council, is very anxious that the midwifery service should cover the whole of the County, and I am pleased to report that during the past year it has been possible to provide a nurse-midwife for the Riseley District, and also a second nurse-midwife at Dunstable. A special effort is being made to extend this provision to those districts in the County at present unprovided.

The Bedford District Nursing Association continued its good work during 1934. This Association provides skilled nursing for persons in their own homes. The minimum subscription for membership is 4/- per annum. The services of the nurses are also available for non-members when a charge is made for each visit.

The Luton Nursing Association reports another year of successful service. The Leagrave and Limbury District was taken over in October 1934, and two nurses are now provided for that district. This makes a total of seven districts and nine nurses. An annual grant is made to the Association by the County Council through the Public Assistance A/c. During the year 1934, 21,250 visits were made. Those families who desire to participate in the scheme contribute 6d. per month. This contribution covers the parents, aged dependents and children under 16. Those from 16 to 21 pay 3d. per month. Non-contributors pay a minimum charge of 1/- per visit.

Maternity Outfits.—Sterilised maternity outfits are provided by the County Council at cost price, and in necessitous cases free of charge. During the year twelve were supplied free of charge and three at cost price.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise midwifery within the Administrative County was 116, as against 115 in the preceding year, 119 in 1932, 111 in 1931 and 116 in 1930.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the County Council Inspectors of Midwives during 1934, as compared with the last four years :—

| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Routine visits of inspection | 191 | 229 | 234 | 281 | 285 |
| Visits paid but midwives not at home | 119 | 149 | 161 | 168 | 178 |
| Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ... | 430 | 397 | 349 | 458 | 481 |
| Other special visits and enquiries | 174 | 165 | 227 | 279 | 281 |
| Total | 914 | 940 | 971 | 1186 | 1225 |

During the year 1934 no case of failure to comply with the Rules of the Central Midwives Board was discovered.

The number of visits paid by the **Bedford Borough** Council's Inspector of Midwives during the year ending 31st December 1934, was as follows :—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Routine visits of inspection and interviews at Office ... | 55 |
| Visits paid but midwives not at home | 8 |
| Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ... | 57 |
| Other special visits and enquiries | 28 |
| Total | 148 |

Notifications received from midwives who notified their intention to practise in the Administrative County :—

| | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Of intention to practise..... | 116 | 111 | 119 | 115 | 116 |
| Of change of address | 6 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 10 |
| Of change of name | — | 2 | 6 | 1 | — |
| Of sending for medical help | 321 | 283 | 265 | 331 | 345 |
| Of still-births occurring in their practice | 25 | 28 | 18 | 26 | 20 |
| Of deaths occurring in their { Mothers } practice | 19 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| { Infants } | | 14 | 10 | 8 | 10 |
| Of laying out the dead | 12 | 6 | 10 | 17 | 17 |
| Of liability to be a source of infection | 18 | 15 | 17 | 33 | 30 |
| Totals | 517 | 471 | 458 | 544 | 548 |

Still-births—Of the 20 still-births occurring in midwives' practices, 18 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate. Enquiries were made in respect of each case. In each case the mother was engaged in household duties with the exception of one, the mother of an illegitimate child, who was employed as a milliner.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia—7 cases of Puerperal Fever and 7 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred in midwives' practices during 1934.

Ophthalmia—Inflammation or discharge from the eyes, however slight. Central Midwives' Board Rule E. 20 (5). During 1934 17 cases were reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Eight cases occurred in midwives' practices during 1934. In each case the vision was unimpaired as the result of treatment. It was found necessary to arrange for the admission and treatment of two infants at St. Margarets' Hospital, London, as a result of which both infants made a complete recovery.

Each midwife is given a supply of colossal argemum for routine use in the care of infants' eyes. Prompt enquiries are made into every case of "inflamed eyes" occurring in a midwife's practice.

Each midwife who has given notice of her intention to practise in the Council's area has been asked to make a return of the number of cases she has attended during the year (*a*) as a midwife, and (*b*) as a maternity nurse (*i.e.*, acting under a medical practitioner).

Returns were made by 96 midwives, showing that during 1934 1,025 cases were attended by 78 midwives. In addition, 629 cases were attended by 79 midwives acting in the capacity of maternity nurses.

The following statistics have been compiled from the returns made by the Midwives :-

| | As Midwife (<i>i.e.</i> , acting alone) | As Maternity Nurse (<i>i.e.</i> , acting under a Doctor.) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Attended no cases | 18 | 17 |
| Attended less than 5 | 30 | 38 |
| Attended between 5 and 10 ... | 20 | 16 |
| Attended between 10 and 25 ... | 17 | 21 |
| Attended between 25 and 50 ... | 8 | 4 |
| Attended between 50 and 100 | 2 | — |
| Attended between 100 and 200 | 1 | — |

Medical aid was sought in approximately 33 per cent. of the midwives' cases.

During the year, 270 claims under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, were received from doctors, amounting to £427 0s. 9d. The sum of £108 10s. 6d. was recovered from patients during the year.

On December 31st, 1934, there were, in the administrative County, 110 practising midwives. Of these, 40 were nurse-midwives working under Committees affiliated to the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association, and 3 were nurse-midwives employed by independent Local Nursing Associations; 1 was an independent midwife subsidised by the Council, and 66 were trained midwives in private practice.

To assist the Bedfordshire County Nursing Association to secure and train sufficient suitable women for the work of nurse-midwife, the County Council makes an annual contribution proportionate to the number of midwives newly appointed by them within the year, whether to fill a vacancy or to serve in an area hitherto unprovided for.

During the year, two Bedfordshire candidates were trained in midwifery, and three others were appointed. A grant is also made, based on the number of cases attended by the nurse-midwives employed by the Association to enable nurses to be maintained in those Districts, which, without some financial assistance, are unable to bear the cost involved.

The total grant made by the County Council to the Association in respect of the year 1934-35 was £526 12s. 6d.

The County Midwives' Association held several very successful meetings in 1934. At these meetings useful addresses were delivered by doctors and others having special experience in the work, to whom the Association is much indebted. At two meetings films of medical interest were shown. The County Council makes a grant of two guineas per annum to the Association, which now has a membership of 110.

NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

The County Council is the local supervising authority under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927 for the Administrative County, with the exception of the Borough of Bedford, and is therefore responsible for the registration and supervision of such Homes within their area.

Visits of inspection have been paid to all registered premises by one of the Council's Medical Officers, and visits of inspection to those premises which have been registered as Maternity Homes have also been made by the Inspectors of Midwives.

On 31st December, 1934, the number of premises registered in the Council's area was eleven; (as Maternity Homes 8, as Nursing Homes 3), providing a total accommodation of 13 beds for maternity cases and 24 for surgical and medical cases.

The number of registered premises in the **Borough of Bedford** was 6, providing accommodation for 17 maternity cases and 31 other cases.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1934, 361 visits (68 of which were primary visits) were made to children under the age of nine who are being maintained for reward apart from their parents or relatives.

Generally speaking, the children were found to be well looked after, receiving both care and affection, being in fact, treated as members of the family. In no case was it found necessary to make an Order for the removal of the child.

The number of such children under the age of 9 living in the administrative area of the Council on the 31st December, 1934, was 66.

Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Bedford**, reports that 18 primary visits were made by his Health Visitors, and 122 periodical and special visits.

Dr. W. Archibald, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Luton**, reports that during the year 372 visits were made by his Health Visitors. The number of infants on the Register was 32.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The work of this branch of the Public Health Department is fully reported upon in the Annual Report on the School Medical Service, but in accordance with the custom of past years the following statistical information is included :—

Among the 8,872 elementary school children examined, 1,041 were recommended to have treatment for some defect, excluding decayed teeth and verminous conditions—a smaller proportion than was found in 1933. Of the 767 scholars attending Secondary Schools examined by the Council's Medical Officers, 99 were found to require some form of medical treatment.

The defects found are classified in the following table :—

| | | | <i>Elementary Schools</i> | | <i>Secondary Schools</i> | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Malnutrition | ... | ... | in | 53 children | in | — children |
| Diseases of the Skin | ... | | ,, | 28 | ,, | — |
| External Eye Disease | ... | | ,, | 69 | ,, | 4 |
| Defective Vision and Squint | ... | | ,, | 330 | ,, | 62 |
| Diseases of the Ear and | | | | | | |
| Deafness | ... | ... | ,, | 39 | ,, | 1 child |
| Chronic Tonsillitis only | ... | | ,, | 16 | ,, | 3 children |
| Adenoids only | ... | ... | ,, | 20 | ,, | 1 child |
| Chronic Tonsillitis and | | | | | | |
| Adenoids | ... | ... | ,, | 145 | ,, | — children |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ,, | 29 | ,, | 1 child |
| Anaemia | ... | ... | ,, | 17 | ,, | 2 children |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ,, | 2 | ,, | — |
| Rickets, Spinal Curvature and | | | | | | |
| other deformities | ... | | ,, | 76 | ,, | 9 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ,, | 317 | ,, | 46 |
| Totals | | | | 1141 | | 129 |

The percentage of defects treated (not including decayed teeth and verminous heads) in respect of Elementary School children was 65.3, and 71.0 in respect of scholars attending Secondary Schools.

The average Heights and Weights are set out in the following Table :—

| Age Group. | Number weighed and Measured. | | Average Height in Inches | | Average Weight in Pounds. | |
|------------|------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| 5 | 603 | 592 | 43.09 | 42.78 | 42.7 | 41.03 |
| 8 | 736 | 717 | 49.68 | 49.18 | 57.41 | 55.18 |
| 12 | 822 | 721 | 56.98 | 57.78 | 82.01 | 84.24 |

The figures for the last few years have shown small increases both for average height and weight. A comparison of the figures in the Table for this year with those of the previous year shows small decreases, with the exception of the 5 and 12 years age-groups (boys). Small increases are recorded in the weight column of the 5 years group and in both height and weight of the 12 years group.

The condition of the children as regards nutrition has been carefully investigated and I am pleased to report that the standard continues to be satisfactory.

Care has been taken in assessing the nutrition of the children to make this judgment on evidence distinct from the muscular development and physique of the child. It is the considered opinion of the School Medical Officers that the general nutritional standard of children has not fallen during the past year but that the progressive improvement noted in recent years continues.

SCHOOL DENTISTRY.

The following particulars are given of the work performed in connection with children attending the Council's Elementary Schools in 1934 :—

(1) Number of Elementary School children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------|------|---|-----------------|
| Routine Age Groups | { | 5..... | 1418 | } | Total ... 15807 |
| | | 6..... | 1562 | | |
| | | 7..... | 1681 | | |
| | | 8..... | 1728 | | |
| | | 9..... | 1804 | | |
| | | 10..... | 1846 | | |
| | | 11..... | 1782 | | |
| | | 12..... | 1807 | | |
| | | 13..... | 1922 | | |
| | | 14..... | 257 | | |

Specials..... 102

Grand Total 15909

(b) Found to require treatment 7353

(c) Actually treated..... 3014

(2) Half days devoted to { Inspection... 289 } Total ...750
 { Treatment... 461 }

(3) Attendances made by the children for treatment3116

(4) Fillings ... { Permanent Teeth ... 1062 } Total 1102
 { Temporary Teeth ... 40 }

(5) Extractions { Permanent Teeth ... 702 } Total...5144
 { Temporary Teeth ... 4442 }

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions...nil.

(7) Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth
(Scaling, etc.) 309

During the year the School Dental Service was extended to the Council's Secondary Schools. The procedure of systematic inspection and treatment is the same as that followed with regard to the Elementary Schools with the exception that parents of scholars attending Secondary Schools are asked to give their consent before an inspection is made. This variation of practice was considered advisable since many of the scholars receive regular inspection and treatment by private dentists and it is not desired to encroach upon the practice of the private dental surgeon.

The scheme was not put into operation until the last term of the year and only one School was dealt with.

The following figures are given :—

(1) Number of Secondary School Children who were :

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|----|
| Routine Age Groups | 10 | ... | ... | 3 | } Total | ... | 76 |
| | 11 | ... | ... | 12 | | | |
| | 12 | ... | ... | 12 | | | |
| | 13 | ... | ... | 17 | | | |
| | 14 | ... | ... | 15 | | | |
| | 15 | ... | ... | 7 | | | |
| | 16 | ... | ... | 6 | | | |
| | 17 | ... | ... | 4 | | | |
| | 18 | ... | ... | — | | | |
| Specials | 19 | ... | ... | — | | | |
| | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Grand Total | | | | ... | ... | ... | 76 |

(b) Found to require treatment ... 52

(c) Actually treated ... 41

(2) Half-days devoted to { Inspection 2 } Total 6
 { Treatment 4 }

(3) Attendances made by the children for treatment ... 41

(4) Fillings { Permanent Teeth ... 34 } Total 34
 { Temporary Teeth ... — }

(5) Extractions { Permanent Teeth ... 5 } Total 29
 { Temporary Teeth ... 24 }

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions *nil*

(7) Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth
 (Scaling, etc.) ... 9

ORTHOPAEDICS.

Ascertainment and Treatment.

Every effort is made to discover persons suffering from crippling defects, both among the adult and child population of this County, and with this object in view the School Medical Officers, Tuberculosis Medical Officers, Medical Officer in charge of Infant Welfare Centres and Health Visitors notify me of all cases coming to their notice. Arrangements are then made for each case to be examined by an Orthopaedic Surgeon whose recommendations for treatment are communicated to the appropriate Committee of the Council.

Orthopaedic treatment frequently includes "in-patient" treatment and the provision of suitable apparatus for the patients,

ORTHOPAEDIC CASES

| Committee. | National Insurance. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. | Education | M. & C. W. | Public Asst. |
|---|-----------------------|------|------------|----------|------------|-------|-------|---------|--------|-----|------|-------|------|------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| | Surgical Tuberculosis | | | | | | | | | | | | | Other conditions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Spine | Ribs | Chest Wall | Shoulder | Cheek Bone | Elbow | Wrist | Fingers | Pelvis | Hip | Knee | Ankle | Foot | Spine | Hip | Knock-knee | Bow Legs | Traumatic Ankle | Flat feet | Club feet | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Number of Cases on 1st January, 1934, under treatment or observation | 53 | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 45 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during 1934, or who have returned after being transferred or "lost sight of " | 10 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Total | 63 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 46 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Number of cases transferred to other areas during 1934 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 4. Number of cases who died during 1934 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Number of cases who have removed and whose present whereabouts is unknown | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 6. Number of cases REMAINING under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1934... .. | 59 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 44 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

the Council in necessitous cases bearing the whole or part of the cost involved.

I wish to take this opportunity of placing on record the very helpful co-operation which exists between this Department and the various Voluntary Hospitals in the County and in London, and in particular the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London, in which Institution and its Country Branch a large amount of treatment is afforded to Bedfordshire cases.

The arrangements outlined above have proved very satisfactory, present-day facilities for travel making it possible, and in many cases convenient, for patients to attend at a London Hospital.

After-care.

Special attention is given to the following-up of all cases on the register. The patients receive periodical visits in their homes by the Council's Health Visitors, in addition to examinations by the Council's Medical Officers. When necessary arrangements are made for the patients to be re-examined by an Orthopaedic Surgeon. In necessitous cases the small cost involved in travelling is borne by the Council.

On 31st December, 1934, 262 cases were under treatment or supervision, an analysis of which is given below :—

STATISTICAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1934.

[illegible]

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Receiving treatment in Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Under treatment or observation by Orthopaedic Surgeon or own medical attendant | ... | ... | ... | ... | 89 |
| Not in need of treatment but visited periodically :— | | | | | |
| Wearing appliance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Appliance not necessary | ... | ... | ... | ... | 89 |
| Treatment pending, or in need of treatment, but offer declined | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

The following Statistics for the whole County have been compiled from the Monthly Returns of the Vaccination Officers.

| | VACCINATION DISTRICT | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------|----------|--------|-------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | BEDFORD | BIGGLES- WADE | AMPTHILL | WOBURN | LUTON | DUN- STABLE | LEIGHTON BUZZARD | WYM- INGTON | EATON SOCON | TOTALS |
| No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/33 ... | 307 | 70 | 38 | 14 | 159 | 12 | 20 | — | 6 | 626 |
| No. of children shown on Birth Sheets received during 1934 ... | 994 | 369 | 178 | 119 | 1180 | 197 | 154 | 19 | 45 | 3255 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 1301 | 439 | 216 | 133 | 1339 | 209 | 174 | 19 | 51 | 3881 |
| Successfully Vaccinated ... | 127 | 27 | 19 | 20 | 67 | 8 | 15 | 2 | 10 | 295 |
| Insusceptible of Vaccination ... | 3 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Died Unvaccinated ... | 32 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 43 | 3 | 9 | — | 4 | 112 |
| Declarations of Conscientious Objection ... | 754 | 324 | 144 | 84 | 1031 | 179 | 128 | 15 | 28 | 2687 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 916 | 366 | 166 | 108 | 1142 | 190 | 152 | 17 | 42 | 3099 |
| No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/34 ... | 385 | 73 | 50 | 25 | 197 | 19 | 22 | 2 | 9 | 782 |

It will be observed from the foregoing table that during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1934, 3,255 births were entered on the Births Lists received by the Vaccination Officers, which, together with the number outstanding from the previous year (626), made a total of 3,881.

Of this number, 295 were successfully vaccinated, and declarations of conscientious objection were made in respect of 2,687 infants. Of the remainder, 112 died unvaccinated; 5 were found to be insusceptible of vaccination; and 782 had either left the County or were otherwise outstanding at the end of the year.

In order to obtain as accurate a figure as possible to represent the percentage of children vaccinated in the County, the records in respect of the births returned for the previous twelve months have been examined. From 1st January, 1933 to 31st December, 1933, 2,907 births were returned. By the end of January, 1935, these births had been accounted for as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Successfully vaccinated | ... | ... | ... | ... | 291 |
| Insusceptible of vaccination | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Number in respect of whom Declarations of conscientious objection were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,387 |
| Died unvaccinated | ... | ... | ... | ... | 99 |
| Vaccination postponed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Cases outstanding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 119 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 2,907 <hr/> |

It will therefore be seen that of the births dealt with only 11.0 % were vaccinated, whilst the remaining 89.0 % refused vaccination and made the statutory declaration.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A further conference has been held with representatives of the Local Authorities in the County with regard to the recommendations of the County Medical Officer of Health made in accordance with Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929. The recommendations are briefly as follows :—

Infectious Diseases (other than Smallpox).

1. The hospital, at present owned by the Bedford R.D.C. at Oakley Hill, should serve the Bedford Rural District, the Borough of Bedford, and the Kempston Urban District and the accommodation increased from 47 to a minimum of 63 beds.

2. The hospital at Biggleswade should continue to serve the Biggleswade Urban and Rural Districts and the Sandy Urban District with a minimum accommodation of 24 beds.

3. The hospital at Steppingley should continue to serve the Ampthill Urban and Rural Districts with a minimum accommodation of 20 beds.

4. The hospital at Spittlesea, Luton, should continue to serve that Borough and the accommodation increased. It is understood that the Luton Town Council propose to carry out extensions which will increase the number of beds by 28, making a total of 62 beds.

5. The hospital at present owned jointly by the Dunstable Corporation and the Luton R.D.C. should continue to serve those districts with the addition of Leighton Buzzard, and the accommodation increased from 22 to a minimum of 30 beds.

It is also recommended that the Bedford Borough Isolation Hospital, and the Grovebury Isolation Hospital at Leighton Buzzard should be closed.

With regard to the treatment of cases of infectious diseases, other than smallpox, it is recommended that the Authorities owning the hospitals should agree to receive patients from other districts in the County when necessity arises at an agreed weekly maintenance charge.

Small Pox.

The Small Pox Hospitals at Milton Ernest, Steppingley and Billington should be closed, and the following hospitals retained:—

Newnham, Bedford, provided by the Bedford Corporation (minimum number of beds 10).

Langford Road, Biggleswade, provided by the Biggleswade and District Joint Board (minimum number of beds 3).

Eaton Green Road, Luton, provided by the Luton Corporation (minimum number of beds 10).

It is proposed to purchase a trailer ambulance to be kept at some convenient centre for use in connection with each of these hospitals.

The recommendations outlined above have received the approval of the Local Authorities concerned.

Further recommendations have been made that the cost of treating cases of smallpox should be a charge on the County as a whole, and agreements should be entered into by the County Council with the Authorities owning the hospitals for the reception of patients from any part of the County.

This arrangement has also received the approval of the Local Authorities concerned.

Scheme.

A scheme has been prepared embodying these proposals, and submitted to the Minister of Health for his approval. The Minister's approval has now been received, subject to the following modifications :—

1. Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital—the minimum number of beds to be provided to be 54 instead of 63. This alteration is made on the understanding that a new cubicle ward of eight beds is to be provided.
2. Small Pox Hospitals. The minimum number of beds to be provided at the three hospitals to be 24, 8 and 8 respectively, i.e. the number of beds actually in existence at these three Hospitals at the present time.

Grants.

As certain alterations are required to the isolation hospitals, the question of a grant from the County Council towards the cost thereof is being considered.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

At the close of the year under review the Scheme for the reconstruction and extension of the Luton Public Assistance Institution was receiving the attention of the Committees concerned. The Scheme includes the purchase of the Bute Hospital which occupies an adjacent site.

Plans are also being prepared for extensions and alterations at the Bedford Public Assistance Institution.

Until these extensions have been carried out it will not be possible to close any of the smaller Institutions.

The following table gives brief particulars of the five Institutions in Bedfordshire :—

| Name and Situation | Area Served | | No. of Sick Wards | Beds available for sick, maternity, and mental cases at 31/12/34 | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|-------|-------------------|-------|
| | Acreage | Pop. acc. to 1931 Census | | Men | Women | Children under 16 | Total |
| Ampthill Public Assistance Institution Ampthill | 69,992 | 22,151 | 6 | 49 | 27 | 1 | 77 |
| Bedford Public Assistance Institution (St. Peters Hospital), Kimbolton Rd., Bedford... | 118,864 | 70,298 | 12 | 52 | 50 | 9 | 111 |
| Biggleswade Public Assistance Institution Biggleswade | 58,275 | 29,946 | 9 | 23 | 37 | 2 | 62 |
| Luton Public Assistance Institution, 11a, Dunstable Rd., Luton ... | 39,779 | 87,164 | 24 | 79 | 109 | 13 | 201 |
| Leighton Buzzard Public Assistance Institution, Leighton Buzzard ... | 16,032 | 10,966 | 8 | 25 | 30 | — | 55 |
| Total | 302,942 | 220,525 | 59 | 228 | 253 | 25 | 506 |

On comparing the above table with that published last year, it will be seen that the total number of beds has been increased by 34. This has been made possible by the two new Wards at Ampthill (23 “ male ” beds) and the improvements made to the Verandahs at the Bedford Institution providing accommodation for 6 “ male ” beds and 5 “ female ” beds.

Particulars of admissions, discharges, etc., during the year are set out below :—

| Name of Institution. | Patients in on 1/1/34. | Admissions during the year (including infants born in the Institution) | Deaths. | Discharges. | Patients remaining in on 31/12/34. |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|---------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Ampthill | 42 | 61 | 19 | 38 | 46 |
| Bedford | 74 | 840 | 187 | 640 | 87 |
| Biggleswade | 40 | 95 | 23 | 76 | 36 |
| Luton | 148 | 641 | 134 | 522 | 133 |
| Leighton Buzzard... | 27 | 30 | 18 | 15 | 24 |
| Total | 331 | 1667 | 381 | 1291 | 326 |

The table printed on the next page gives information with regard to the classification of the patients treated during 1934.

| DISEASE GROUP. | AMPTHILL. | | | | BEDFORD. | | | | BIGGLES- WADE. | | | | LUTON. | | | | LEIGHTON BUZZARD. | | | | TOTALS. | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | | CHILD- REN | | MEN AND WOMEN | |
| | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. | Discharged. | Died. |
| Group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| B | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| C | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| D | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| E | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| F | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| G | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| H | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| I | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| J | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| K | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| L | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| M | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| N | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| O | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| P | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Q | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| R | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| S | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| T | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| U | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTALS | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

No further extensions have taken place at either the Bedford County Hospital or the Bute Hospital, Luton.

The Bute Hospital authorities are desirous of building a new up-to-date hospital on a site between Luton and Dunstable and have launched a public appeal for the necessary funds. As has been noted elsewhere it is proposed that the existing Bute Hospital buildings should be acquired by the Council for use in connection with the extension of the hospital provision made by the Public Assistance Committee at their Luton Institution.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For the removal of cases of infectious disease (other than smallpox) there is a Motor Ambulance attached to each of the seven isolation hospitals within the County, with the exception of Leighton Buzzard, where a horse-drawn cab is provided.

In addition, horse-drawn cabs are kept at the Isolation Hospitals at Luton, Steppingley and Milton Ernest for cases of smallpox.

The County Council's motor ambulance for the removal of cases of tuberculosis is stationed at the County Sanatorium at Mogerhanger Park.

The following particulars with regard to ambulance provisions for accident and non-infectious cases are included in this Report as a ready means of reference for Medical Officers and others concerned :—

MOTOR AMBULANCES.

| <i>Owned by :—</i> | <i>Stationed at :—</i> |
|--|---|
| Bedford Corporation (Telephone Bedford 2222) | Fire Station, Mill Street, Bedford |
| Luton Corporation (Telephone : Luton 2210 and 2211). | Police Station, Luton |
| British Red Cross Society (Telephone : Dunstable 309) | Police Station, Dunstable. |
| County Constabulary (Telephone : Biggleswade 26) | Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade |
| St. John's Ambulance Brigade (Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 43) | Buckmaster's Garage, Leighton Buzzard. |
| *London Brick Co. & Forders, Ltd. (Telephone : Kempston 311) | Brickworks, Stewartby, near Bedford. |

*This is a works ambulance and is only available for the use of the public by arrangement with the owners.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1929, and Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1933, imposes upon the County Council the duty of formulating arrangements for securing, whether by means of a combination of Districts or otherwise, that every Medical Officer of Health subsequently appointed for a District shall be restricted by the terms of his employment from engaging in private practice as a Medical Practitioner.

A Report was submitted to the Public Health, &c., Committee on the subject by the County Medical Officer. The recommendations contained in this Report were embodied in a Scheme which received the sanction of the Council on the 27th July, 1934.

This Scheme provides for the combination of the following districts for the purposes of the future appointments of whole-time Medical Officers of Health:—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Bedford Rural | } | District No. 1 |
| Biggleswade Urban | | |
| Biggleswade Rural | | |
| Kempston Urban | | |
| Sandy Urban | | |
| Amphill Urban | } | District No. 2 |
| Amphill Rural | | |
| Dunstable Municipal Borough | | |
| Leighton Buzzard Urban | | |
| Luton Rural | | |

The Municipal Boroughs of Bedford and Luton each require the whole-time services of a Medical Officer of Health.

Clause 4 of the Scheme states that whenever a vacancy occurs hereafter in the office of Medical Officer of Health in any one or more of the County Districts mentioned above the Council of the Districts or District in which the vacancy occurs shall make such provisional or other arrangements with the concurrence of the Councils of the other County Districts in the same combined District as will ensure the appointment at as early a date as possible of a single Medical Officer of Health for all the County Districts comprised in such combined District.

A list of the Medical Officers serving the several local sanitary districts at the present time will be found on page 9 of this Report.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL DOMICILIARY TREATMENT.

No change has been made in the procedure adopted for administering this service.

A list of the Public Assistance District Medical Officers and their Districts will be found on page 8 of this Report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

(Section 73)

During the year under review the attention of the local sanitary authorities was called to the appearance from time to time of rag and bone dealers in the Rural Districts, usually from London, collecting rags and bones from children in exchange for toys, balloons and the like.

Section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1925, makes it an offence for such dealers to give toys in exchange from carts containing rags, etc., as vermin and contagion are likely to be spread as a consequence, and proceedings under this Section can only be taken by the Local Sanitary Authority of the district in which the offence is committed, such Authorities having no power to delegate the prosecution to the Police.

BLIND WELFARE.

No alterations were made in the arrangements for the administration of the Blind Persons Act during the year. There are 4 certificated Home teachers who are engaged in visiting the blind in their own homes. They made 7,302 visits during the year. In addition many Voluntary Helpers throughout the County render invaluable service in many ways. The Home Teachers give help and advice and also lessons in reading from Braille, handicraft work such as hand and machine knitting, rug making, rush and cane chair seating, mat making, basket making and pastime occupations. Seven of the blind persons are registered as Home Workers.

Register of Blind Persons.

A Register is kept at the Shire Hall of all blind persons in the County.

On March 31st, 1934, there were 402 registered blind persons residing in the County.

During the year the following cases were removed from the Register :—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Sight improved after operation..... | 3 |
| Left County | 5 |
| Died | 28 |
| | — |
| | 36 |

and 51 cases were added to the Register. —

The number of cases on the Register on 31st March, 1935, was therefore 417.

The ages and sexes of these 417 blind persons are as follows :—

| | | | | | Males. | Females. |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|
| 0— 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 5—15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 2 |
| 16—20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 2 |
| 21—29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 |
| 30—39 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | 6 |
| 40—49 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | 19 |
| 50—59 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 32 |
| 60—69 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 | 64 |
| 70 and over | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 | 100 |
| Total | | | | ... | 187 | 230 |

The form of medical certificate prepared by the Minister of Health is used by the Ophthalmic Surgeons when reporting on new cases.

Workshops for the Blind.

There are Workshops for the Blind at the premises of the South Bedfordshire Society at Luton, where eight men and three women are regularly employed in basket making, bee-skep making, rush and cane seating, making door mats and various kinds of woollen goods. One blind man is receiving training in brush-making at Leatherhead, and two are receiving training in Basket-work at Norwich. The County Council have approved the purchase of a site at Luton for the erection of new and adequate workshops.

Unemployable Blind.

The Voluntary Societies have, during the year under review, considered the circumstances of all unemployable blind persons and, where necessary, have made grants in money or kind to meet the needs of each particular case as far as possible. Since the 1st October, 1931, all the blind persons (except those in Institutions) who hitherto had received assistance through the various Guardians Committees, have been dealt with by the Voluntary Societies.

The number on the register includes 21 blind persons in Institutions in the County, and 7 children at Schools for the Blind outside the County.

Books for the Blind.

These are supplied on loan by the National Library for the Blind and £1 per head per annum is paid by the Voluntary Societies to that Institution for each person making use of such books.

Social Events, etc.

Besides the Annual Summer Outings, Social gatherings such as reading circles, teas, etc., have been arranged and additional wireless sets have been supplied.

Prevention of Blindness.

Although under the Scheme the duties are confined to those who are certified to be blind, the two Societies consider the prevention of blindness to be part of their work and every effort is made to provide suitable glasses or treatment. Lists of "observation cases" are kept.

Inspection.

Prior to the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1929, the work of the Societies was inspected by the Ministry of Health. This duty now falls upon the Blind Persons Act Committee of the County Council who have requested their Chairman to make the necessary periodical inspections.

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930.

One of the main objects of this Act is the early diagnosis and the treatment of mental disease in its incipient stage. County Councils are empowered to establish out-patient clinics to assist in this work. It also gives them power to admit into their Mental Hospitals voluntary patients seeking treatment, and it enables temporary patients to be treated for a period (not exceeding 12 months) on the recommendation of two medical men without the intervention of any judicial authority.

With a view to making the provisions of the Mental Treatment Act more widely known, a memorandum was circulated to the medical practitioners in the County in November, 1934. This memorandum, which was prepared in conjunction with the late Dr. L. O. Fuller (the then Medical Superintendent of the Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey), drew attention to the provisions of the Act and the facilities for treatment provided under the Act at the Three Counties Hospital.

The special attention of the Public Assistance District Medical Officers was also directed to this subject and it was pointed out that the Council's Relieving Officers had been designated by the County Council as authorised Officers under the Act.

I am pleased to report that increasing use is being made of the Mental Treatment Act for cases which can properly be dealt with under its provisions.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1927.

As in former years, all cases throughout the County coming to my notice as suspected to be suffering from mental deficiency have been examined, including children under five years of age, with a view to determining whether or not they were mentally defective.

Mentally defective children of school age were reported to the Education Committee, and the appropriate action taken so far as is possible under the present circumstances.

Adult defectives and defectives under school age were dealt with by the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee.

The numbers of defectives in Institutions or under guardianship on 31st December, 1934, were :—

| | | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| In Certified Institutions | ... | 45 | 58 | 103 |
| In State Institutions | ... | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Under Guardianship | ... | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| | | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | 59 | 70 | 129 |
| | | — | — | — |

BROMHAM HOUSE COLONY.

The Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Joint Board for the Mentally Defective have obtained from the constituent Authorities their approval to the plans for the erection of a permanent Colony to accommodate 240 patients. These plans have been approved by the Board of Control, the sites for the intended buildings have been cleared, and at the time of writing, provisional tenders have been accepted.

It is anticipated that building operations will be commenced by the end of July, 1935. At the present time the existing House is being used for the accommodation of 24 high grade male mentally defectives, ten of these being Bedfordshire cases.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Information as to Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations which are in force in the various sanitary districts in the County is given in the following table :—

| | District | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Amphill Urban | Amphill Rural | Bedford Urban | Bedford Rural | Biggleswade Urban | Biggleswade Rural | Dunstable Urban | Kempston Urban | Leighton Buzzard Urban | Luton Urban | Luton Rural | Sandy Urban |
| Adoptive Acts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Health Act, 1890 ... | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | | | |
| Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 | | | * | | * | | * | | | * | | * |
| Infectious Diseases Notification Act | | | | | | | * | | | * | | |
| Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II, III, IV and V | | | * | | * | * | | | * | * | | |
| Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 61 and 67 | | * | * | | | * | | | | * | | |
| Notification of Births Act, 1907 | | | * | | | | | | | * | | |
| Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1907 | | | * | | | | | | | * | | |
| Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II, III, IV, and V | * | | * | | | * | | | * | * | | |
| Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1 | | | | | | | | | * | | | |
| Special Acts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Luton Corporation Act, 1911 ... | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Byelaws and Regulations | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prevention of Nuisances ... | * | | | * | * | * | | * | * | * | | |
| Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cess-pools | | | | | | * | | | * | | * | |
| Removal of Refuse and Noxious Matter | * | | | | | * | | | | | | |
| Public Sanitary Conveniences ... | * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleansing of Footways ... | * | | | | * | * | | * | | * | * | |
| Spitting | | | * | | | | | | | | | |
| Offensive Trades... .. | * | | * | | * | | | * | | * | | |
| Smoke Abatement | | | * | * | | | | | | | | |
| New Streets and Buildings ... | * | * | | | * | * | * | * | | | * | * |
| Ventilation of Buildings ... | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Houses let in Lodgings | | | * | | | | | | | * | | |
| Underground Sleeping Rooms ... | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Common Lodging Houses ... | * | | * | | * | * | | | * | * | | |
| Paving of Yards and Open Spaces | | | * | | | | | | * | | | |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Means of Escape in case of Fire... | | | * | | | | | | | | | |
| Nursing Homes | C.C. | C.C. | * | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. |
| Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc. | | | | * | * | * | * | * | | * | | |
| Slaughter Houses | | * | * | * | * | * | | * | * | * | | |
| Regulations under Diseases of Animals Acts and Glanders Order, 1907 | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Keeping of Animals | | | | | * | * | | | | | | |
| Keeping of Swine | | | * | | | | | | | * | | |
| Regulations as to movement of Sheep | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Employment of Children ... | C.C. | C.C. | * | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | C.C. | * | C.C. | C.C. |

* Denotes in force in this area.

C.C. Denotes in force by County Council.

MILK AND DAIRIES (Consolidation) ACT, 1915.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

No alterations were made during 1934 in the procedure for carrying out the provisions of the above Act and Order, but at the close of the year under review a Special Joint Sub-Committee of the Public Health &c. Committee and the Agricultural Committee were considering the question of the appointment of a whole time Veterinary Surgeon and the introduction of routine veterinary inspection of the dairy herds in the County. It was decided that the appointment of a whole-time County Veterinary Surgeon was advisable. Mr. Donald Johnston, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., has since been appointed and will take up his duties on the 18th July, 1935.

The approximate number of dairy cattle in the County, as given in the Ministry of Agriculture Returns, is 14,500.

The County Register contains the names of 698 registered Cowkeepers. Sanitary Authorities are required to notify the County Council of all alterations made in their Register of Cowkeepers so that the Central Register may be kept up-to-date.

During the year 102 samples of milk were taken from all parts of the County, and submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which proved to be free from tubercle bacilli.

There were three instances in which it was considered advisable for an inspection of the herd to be made by the Council's Veterinary Surgeon. The cows in the herd were carefully examined and samples of milk tested. In one of these herds a tuberculous animal was discovered and destroyed.

The Milk Marketing Board's Scheme for the provision of milk for school children at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a third of a pint came into operation on the 1st October, 1934.

The Scheme provides that, in the case of Schools under the control of the County Council, the source of supply and the quality of the milk must first be approved by the County Medical Officer of Health after consultation with the District Medical Officer of Health.

This provision has resulted in an improvement in the conditions under which milk is produced at many farms.

In giving approval to the source of supply a standard similar to that of Grade "A" has been adopted.

In some instances either on account of a high bacteriological count or coliform contamination, or the unsatisfactory methods of production, it was necessary to withhold approval.

In such cases advice was offered to the producers and every encouragement and assistance given to enable them to attain the required standard of cleanliness, with the result that it was subsequently found possible to give the required approval.

On 31st December, 1934, the milk scheme was in operation in 62 schools and the total number of children participating was 4,805. It is hoped that the scheme will be extended before next winter to those schools where there is at present no arrangement made for the scholars to receive milk during the morning session.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

130 tuberculous cows were slaughtered during the year under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 as compared with 132 in 1933.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1923.

At the commencement of the year 1934 there were 12 producers of Grade "A" milk registered with the County Council.

No new licences were issued during the year.

In one instance the producer obtained a licence for Grade "A" (T.T.) milk, and did not renew his licence for Grade "A". The eleven other producers renewed their licences.

At the time of writing considerable interest is being taken by milk producers in the County in the production of "Grade A" or "Accredited" milk, and a number of additional licences have already been issued.

The farm premises of persons holding licences are inspected periodically and show that the required high standard of cleanliness has in each case been maintained.

There is one farm in the County producing and selling "Certified" and "Grade A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk; there are two farms producing and selling "Grade A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk; and one other farm producing and selling "Certified" Milk. These licences are granted by the Ministry of Health.

ACCREDITED MILK PRODUCERS' SCHEME.

Mr. J. W. Dallas, M.Sc., the County Agricultural Organiser, reports as follows :—

“ In 1933 a Scheme was started whereby competitors who had been awarded prizes or certificates in the County Better Milk Competitions were allowed the opportunity of participating in a County Accredited Milk Producers' Scheme. This Scheme involved the submission of one sample per month either by the producer or taken on a surprise visit by the recorder of the Bedfordshire Milk Recording Society. As long as competitors maintained a bacterial standard of cleanliness slightly lower than that of Grade “ A ” milk, they were allowed to designate themselves Accredited Producers on the County Roll.

Only nine competitors availed themselves of the facilities offered by the Scheme in 1934.

The County Scheme has now been superseded by a National Scheme under the Milk Marketing Board and accordingly the County Agricultural Organiser is advising milk producers generally upon improved methods of production so that they may qualify for Grade “ A ” licences and so become eligible for the bonus payment offered by the Milk Marketing Board to producers of Grade “ A ” milk. Such producers are called Accredited Producers for the purposes of administration by the Milk Marketing Board.”

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925—1927.

By these Regulations a definite restriction has been placed on the use of preservatives in certain articles of food. No preservative is to be added to milk and cream in any case.

Seven samples of Cream were submitted for analysis during the year 1934. All the samples were found to be genuine. Of these samples, one was taken in the Borough of Bedford and one in the Borough of Luton.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (DRIED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923-1927.

Two samples were examined and found to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (CONDENSED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1923-1927.

Fourteen samples were examined, all of which were found to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM ACT, 1929.

There are three persons registered for the manufacture and sale of artificial cream in the County. The premises are inspected periodically. Only small quantities are manufactured at seasonal times of the year.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Reports of the District Medical Officers of Health record details of the inspection of meat and other foods, shops, stalls, slaughter-houses and other premises in which food is prepared.

In the Borough of Luton 12 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 0 lbs. of unsound food was condemned and destroyed, and in the Borough of Bedford 3 tons 11 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. of unsound food was destroyed.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The following table is a summary of the number, nature, and results of analysis of the samples submitted to the County Analyst during 1934.

| Article Submitted for Analysis. | No. of Genuine Samples (569). | No. of Adulterated Samples (41). | Remarks as to Adulteration. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Antiphlogistine ... | 1 | | |
| Antiseptic | | | |
| Pastilles | 1 | | |
| Apricots (Dried) | 1 | | |
| Apricots (Dried) | | 1 | Sulphur dioxide 2490 parts per million (Excess 490). Dismissed on payment of costs |
| Arrowroot ... | 3 | | |
| Bacon ... | 8 | | |
| Bacon Cooked ... | 1 | | |
| Baking Powder ... | 2 | | |
| Beef (Corned) ... | 1 | | |
| Biscuits ... | 12 | | |
| Bismuthated | | | |
| Magnesia | 1 | | |
| Blancmange | | | |
| Powder | 1 | | |
| Brisling ... | 1 | | |
| Butter ... | 31 | | |
| Cake ... | 9 | | |
| Cake Flour ... | 1 | | |
| Cakeoma ... | 2 | | |
| Camphorated Oil | 2 | | |
| Carbonate of | | | |
| Magnesia | 1 | | |
| Castor Oil ... | 1 | | |
| Cheese ... | 9 | | |
| Chefex ... | 1 | | |
| Cherries (Canned) | 1 | | |
| Chocolate Roll ... | 1 | | |
| Chocolates ... | 2 | | |
| Citrate of | | | |
| Magnesia | 1 | | |
| Cocoa ... | 9 | | |
| Cod Liver Oil ... | 1 | | |
| Coffee ... | 4 | | |
| Coffee & Chicory | 6 | | |
| Coffee Extract ... | 1 | | |
| Cornflour ... | 4 | | |
| Cough Syrup ... | 1 | | |
| Cough Tablets ... | 1 | | |
| Crana (Mineral | | | |
| Water) | 1 | | |
| Cream Horse | | | |
| Raddish | 1 | | |
| Cream (Canned) | 5 | | |
| Crumpets ... | 1 | | |
| Currants ... | 10 | | |
| Currie Powder ... | 1 | | |
| Custard Powder ... | 5 | | |
| Dressing (French) | 1 | | |
| Egg Substitute ... | 2 | | |
| Epsom Salts ... | 1 | | |

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

| Article Submitted for Analysis. | No. of Genuine Samples (569) | No. of Adulter- ated Samples. (41) | Remarks as to Adulteration. |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Essence of Lemon | 2 | | |
| Essence of Rennet | 1 | | |
| Eucalyptus Oil ... | 1 | | |
| Figs (Preserved) | 1 | | |
| Fish Paste ... | 2 | | |
| Flour ... | 2 | | |
| Flour (Self Raising) | 6 | | |
| Fluid Magnesia ... | 1 | | |
| Fruit (Dried) ... | 3 | | |
| Fruit Salad ... | 1 | | |
| Gin ... | 1 | | |
| Ginger Beer Powder | 1 | | |
| Ginger (Ground) | 3 | | |
| Gravin ... | 1 | | |
| Gripe Water ... | 1 | | |
| Groats ... | 1 | | |
| Hall's Wine ... | 1 | | |
| Ham ... | 4 | | |
| Haslet ... | 1 | | |
| Headpowder ... | 1 | | |
| Health Saline ... | 1 | | |
| Health Salts ... | 1 | | |
| Herrings (Canned) | 1 | | |
| Honey ... | 4 | | |
| Honey, Glycerine & Lemon | 1 | | |
| Indigestion Tablets | 1 | | |
| Jam ... | 13 | | |
| Junket(Flavoured) | 1 | | |
| Lard ... | 13 | | |
| Lemon Crystals ... | 1 | | |
| Lemon Curd ... | 7 | | |
| Lunch Ham ... | 1 | | |
| Lung Syrup ... | 1 | | |
| Lung Tonic ... | 1 | | |
| Margarine ... | 7 | | |
| Marmalade ... | 8 | | |
| Marmite ... | 1 | | |
| Marmite ... | | 1 | 1.05 grains per lb. copper. |
| Meat Paste ... | 5 | | |
| Meat Roll ... | 2 | | |
| Milk ... | 154 | | |
| Milk ... | | 1 | Water added 2.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Water added 3.6% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 4.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.6% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 14.0% Case dismissed |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 5.3% Vendor cautioned |

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

| Article Submitted for Analysis. | No. of Genuine Samples (569). | No. of Adulterated Samples (41). | Remarks as to adulteration. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Milk (<i>continued</i>) | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.3 % Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Water added 7% |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 10.0% |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.0% |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 7.3% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.3% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.6% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 10.6% Fined £1 and costs 8/- |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 9.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 12.0% Proceedings dismissed |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.6% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 24.6% Fined £5 and costs 8/- |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 4.6% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 2.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 15.3% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 10.0% Withdrawn by consent of Bench |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 5.3% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 13.3% Summons withdrawn |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.0 % Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 3.3% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 10.0% Fined £1 and costs 16/- |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 7.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 6.0% Vendor cautioned |
| | | 1 | Fat abstracted 2.0% Vendor warned |
| Milk (Condensed Full Cream) | 1 | | |

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

| Articles Submitted for Analysis | No. of Genuine Samples (569) | No. of Adulterated Samples. (41) | Remarks as to Adulteration. |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Milk (Condensed Sweetened Full Cream) | 2 | | |
| Milk (Condensed Sweetened Skimmed) ... | 3 | | |
| Milk (Malted) ... | 4 | | |
| Milk of Magnesia | 1 | | |
| Mincemeat ... | 4 | | |
| Mushroom | | | |
| Ketchup | 1 | | |
| Mustard | | | |
| Compound | 3 | | |
| Nipits Pastilles ... | 1 | | |
| Oats | 1 | | |
| Oats (Rolled) ... | 1 | | |
| Ovaltine ... | 1 | | |
| Paraffin | | | |
| (Medicinal) | 1 | | |
| Peaches (Dried) | 1 | | |
| Pearl Barley ... | 1 | | |
| Peas (Canned) ... | 2 | | |
| Pepper | 8 | | |
| Pepper | | 1 | Sulphur dioxide—55 parts per million. Vendor cautioned. |
| | | 1 | Sulphur dioxide—219 parts per million. Vendor cautioned. |
| Phosferine | | | |
| Tablets | 1 | | |
| Pickles | 3 | | |
| Pork Pie | 2 | | |
| Pudding Mixture | 1 | | |
| Prunes | 3 | | |
| Raisins | 4 | | |
| Raisley | 1 | | |
| Rice | 3 | | |
| Rice (Flaked) ... | 2 | | |
| Rice (Ground) ... | 3 | | |
| Roll (Balmoral) | 1 | | |
| Sago | | 1 | 100% Tapioca. No proceedings. |
| Salad Cream ... | 2 | | |
| Salmon (Canned) | 5 | | |
| Salt (Saxa) ... | 1 | | |
| Salt | 1 | | |
| Sandwich Spread | 1 | | |
| Sausages | 8 | | |
| Sausages | | 1 | 220 parts per million Sulphur dioxide. No offence. Label attached in compliance with Regulations. |
| Sausages (Cooked) | 1 | | |
| Semolina | 1 | | |
| Senna Pods ... | 2 | | |
| Soup | 1 | | |
| Soup (Dried) ... | 1 | | |

TABLE OF SUMMARY.—*continued.*

| Articles Submitted for Analysis. | Number of Genuine Samples (569) | No. of Adulterated Samples (41). | Remarks as to Adulteration. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spice (Mixed) ... | 2 | | |
| Sting Lotion ... | 1 | | |
| Stomach Powder | 2 | | |
| Suet (Shredded)... | 7 | | |
| Sugar | 5 | | |
| Sugar (Brown) ... | 1 | | |
| Sultanas | 7 | | |
| Sweets | 7 | | |
| Swiss Roll | 1 | | |
| Syrup of Rhubarb | 1 | | |
| Tapioca | 3 | | |
| Tapioca Energen | | | |
| Gluton | 1 | | |
| Tapioca Flakes ... | 1 | | |
| Tea | 13 | | |
| Tincture of Iodine | 1 | | |
| Tincture of | | | |
| Rhubarb | 1 | | |
| Tizer Beverage ... | 1 | | |
| Tomato Ketchup | 1 | | |
| Tomato Sauce ... | 1 | | |
| Trex Vegetable | | | |
| Fat | 1 | | |
| Troch Tussi | 1 | | |
| Vaseline | 1 | | |
| Vinegar | 10 | | |
| Vinegar Flats ... | 1 | | |
| Virol | 1 | | |
| Waffle (Raspberry) | 1 | | |
| Whiskey | 1 | | |
| Wincarnis | 1 | | |
| Wine (Cowslip) | 1 | | |

Mr. J. Kear Colwell, F.I.C., the County Analyst, reports as follows :—

“ During the year 1934, 610 samples were submitted to me for analysis in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 528 having been purchased with the usual formalities and 82 obtained informally. In the previous year (1933), the total number of samples examined was 636.

Of the 610 samples submitted during the year under review, 41 (6.72 per cent) proved to be adulterated and were certified accordingly. In the previous year (1933), 3.8 per cent of the samples were found to be “ not of the nature, substance and quality of the article demanded ” and were certified to be adulterated.

Thirty-six of these adulterated samples were purchased with the usual formalities and 5 others were obtained informally.

The samples certified to be adulterated were Dried Apricots, Marmite, Milk, Pepper, Sago and Sausages (Pork).

Milk. One hundred and eighty-nine (189) samples of Milk were submitted for analysis during the year, 186 having been obtained formally and 3 informally. No less than 35 (18.5 per cent) were found to be adulterated as either the fat or non-fatty solids fell below the rather modest requirements of the Board of Agriculture for those constituents in genuine Milk of the poorest quality. It is noteworthy that all the three informal samples were certified to be adulterated.

Three of the adulterated samples of Milk had been diluted with water, the quantity added being at least 2.0, 3.6 and 7.0 per cent respectively, and from the remaining 32 fat had been abstracted, the deficiency in that important ingredient varying from at least 2.0 to at least 24.6 per cent. The Board of Agriculture Regulations prescribe that the fat must not fall below 3.0 per cent and the non-fatty solids below 8.5 per cent. These limits must be regarded as being undoubtedly low especially when it is remembered that the average composition of the genuine Milk supplied in all parts of the County over a number of years is fat 3.6 per cent and non-fatty solids 8.8. per cent.

The average composition of the 154 samples returned as genuine during the year 1934 was fat 3.55 per cent and non-fatty solids 8.99 per cent. As a matter of interest the results obtained from the analyses of these samples of Milk are given in the table below showing the average percentage of fat and non-fatty solids during each month of the year as submitted.

Monthly Variation of Chemical Composition of Genuine Milk during the year 1934.

| Month | Number of Samps. exam. Genuine | Fat p.c. average | Non-fatty Solids p.c. average | Number of Samples. Not Genuine |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January ... | 10 | 3.76 | 8.84 | 3 |
| February ... | 29 | 3.63 | 9.00 | 6 |
| March ... | 3 | 3.40 | 9.12 | 2 |
| April ... | 23 | 3.63 | 8.99 | 4 |
| May ... | 10 | 3.65 | 9.04 | 12 |
| June ... | 4 | 3.37 | 8.91 | 1 |
| July ... | 28 | 3.48 | 8.95 | 5 |
| August ... | 13 | 3.47 | 8.98 | — |
| September ... | — | — | — | — |
| October ... | 22 | 3.57 | 9.05 | 1 |
| November ... | 12 | 3.58 | 9.01 | 1 |
| December ... | — | — | — | — |
| Whole Year ... | 154 | 3.55 | 8.99 | 35 |

The fact that 18.5 per cent of the samples examined—in other words—practically 1 sample in 5, fell below the Board of Agriculture limits, cannot be considered at all satisfactory, and whether this be due to actual adulteration or improper feeding and treatment of the cows it must be regarded very seriously, as it cannot be too strongly emphasised that young children and invalids are so frequently dependent almost entirely on Milk as their sole diet. It is of the utmost importance that the supply should be maintained at a high standard, but whatever the cause of the deficiency may be, steps should be taken to remedy this serious position. That milk of good quality can be, and is produced in the County, is obvious by an inspection of the above table. If each of the samples certified to be adulterated had been judged by the average composition of the genuine milk supplied to the County during the year under review the percentage of the adulteration shown, would have been so much higher as to be rather alarming.

Neither preservatives nor colouring matter were found in any sample.

Pepper. Two samples of pepper were found to contain Sulphur di-oxide to the extent of 55 and 219 parts per million respectively. This addition is not made with a view to preserving the pepper, but is used in the process of bleaching whereby an inferior pepper may be improved in appearance, and as a consequence an increased price obtained. As no provision is made in the Preservative Regulations for the addition of sulphur di-oxide to pepper, there is no alternative but to certify such an article as adulterated.

Dried Apricots. This sample was found to contain an excess of preservative to the extent of 490 parts per million. Dried Apricots containing 2,000 parts of sulphur di-oxide are permitted to be sold without notice given to the vendor, but in the sample in question, no less than 2,490 parts per million were found, and therefore it was certified accordingly. One of the chief objects of the Preservative Regulations is to prevent this kind of indiscriminate addition of chemical substances to food stuffs, so that the public may be protected from the unfortunate acts of careless persons.

It is only fair to add that neither in this case nor in that of the Pepper referred to above, was it likely that the addition was made by the retailer and it seemed therefore to be essential that some way should be found to place the onus on the person or persons really responsible for the offence.

Marmite. This sample was found to contain 1.05 grains per pound of copper.

Sago. In this case Seed Tapioca had been sold for Sago.

Sausages. The sample of sausages certified to be adulterated was found to contain sulphite preservative equal to 220 parts per million of sulphur di-oxide. Sulphite preservative may be added to sausages to the extent of 450 parts per million, expressed in terms of sulphur di-oxide, but in each case, notice of the addition must be given to the purchaser.

The remaining samples call for no special comment except perhaps, to urge again the desirability of prescribing some definite standard which should have the advantage of official recognition, for many articles of food which are now sold in more or less inferior condition. In many cases these cannot be certified to be actually adulterated, but it is quite obvious that the purchaser does not obtain what he expects and pays for, and therefore is entitled to get.''

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS IN THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

During the year, 90 samples were taken, 26 being formal samples, and 64 informal samples, the whole of which were submitted to, and reported on, by the Public Analyst.

Of this number, 6 were found not to be genuine, the adulterated samples being 5 formal samples and one informal sample of Sweet Spirit of Nitre.

In addition, 411 samples of milk were obtained informally for examination in the Laboratory at the Town Hall. Of these, 65 were found to be below the standard and appropriate action was taken in each case.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS IN THE BOROUGH OF LUTON.

During the year, 351 samples were taken, 93 being formal samples, and 258 informal samples, the whole of which were submitted to, and reported on, by the Public Analyst.

Of this number, 26 were found not to be genuine. Thirteen of these were milk. In two cases proceedings were instituted. The cases were dismissed, the Bench accepting evidence that the milk was as given by the cow.

MATTERS OF GENERAL SANITATION.

WATER SUPPLIES.

At the date of the last Annual Report, the Water Committee appointed by the County Council were engaged in contrasting the County Scheme for supplying the villages in need of water with an adequate and wholesome supply from one source, with the individual Schemes prepared by the Rural District Councils. Under the County Scheme all the unprovided parts of the County were to be supplied with water from the greensands at a site in the Parish of Toddington which has been acquired by the County Council, where a bore-hole was sunk under the direction of the Council's Consulting Water Engineers.

After careful consideration, the Committee were of opinion that the most efficient and economical method of providing a piped supply to those Parishes at present without this important service, and with the least possible delay, would be for the Rural District Councils to proceed with their own schemes. These Schemes have been submitted to the Water Engineers engaged by the County Council, and have received the approval of the Council.

Ampthill Rural District.

It is proposed to supply the following Parishes at present without a piped supply from the Apsley Guise and District Joint Committee's supply at Birchmoor.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Hulcote and Salford, | Pulloxhill, |
| Cranfield, | Silsoe, |
| Marston Moretaine, | Gravenhurst, |
| Lidlington, | Shillington, |
| Eversholt, | Westoning, |
| Tingrith, | Harlington, |
| Steppingley, | Millbrook, |
| Flitwick, | Houghton Conquest. |
| Flitton, | |

The Birchmoor Well has been tested over a period of fourteen days, and has been proved to be capable of yielding about 750,000 gallons per diem. Several Parishes in the rural district are at the present time supplied from this source. The estimate of the quantity of water required at the present time for the existing area served by the Committee and also the proposed new area is 429,000 gallons. The Medical Officer for the Ampthill Rural District reports that the water is of excellent quality with a hardness of about 4°. The Parishes of Haynes, Clophill and Maulden will be supplied with water from the Ampthill Urban District Council's Waterworks at Clophill.

The estimated cost of this Scheme is £89,000.

Bedford Rural District.

The Parish of Wootton is to be supplied from Birchmoor; the Parish of Little Barford from St. Neots; the Parishes of Great Barford, Cople, Eaton Socon, Roxton and Willington by the Biggleswade Water Board. The Parish of Podington is to be supplied by the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board. The remaining Parishes in the Bedford Rural District not already served will be supplied with water from the Borough of Bedford, viz.,

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Bletsoe, | Kempston Rural, | Sharnbrook, |
| Bolnhurst and | Knotting and | Stagsden, |
| Keysoe, | Souldrop, | Little Staughton, |
| Bromham, | Melchbourne and | Stevington, |
| Carlton and | Yielden, | Swineshead, |
| Chellington, | Milton Ernest, | Thurleigh, |
| Colmworth, | Oakley, | Turvey, |
| Dean and | Odell, | Wilden, |
| Shelton, | Pavenham, | Wilshamstead. |
| Eastcotts, | Pertenhall, | |
| Felmersham, | Ravensden, | |
| Harrold, | Riseley, | |

The estimate of the quantity of water required for the proposed new area of supply is 448,495 gallons per diem.

The estimated cost of this Scheme is £152,700.

Luton Rural District.

Independent piped supplies are already in operation in several Parishes in the Luton Rural District, and it is considered more economical to supply the remaining Parishes, urgently in need of water, on these lines. The following villages are already served:—

Houghton Regis (by the Dunstable Water Company).

Caddington and Slip End (from a local bore-hole).

Studham (from a local bore-hole).

Streatley (partly by the Luton Water Co., and partly from a local bore-hole).

Hyde (partly by the Luton Water Co., and from private mains at Luton Hoo).

Work in connection with the schemes for supplying Aley Green, Woodside and Totternhoe is in progress.

Schemes have been prepared for supplying the following villages and it is hoped the work will be put in hand at an early date:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Barton, | Whipsnade, |
| Heath and Reach, | Chalgrave, |
| Kensworth, | Billington, |
| Sundon, | Eaton Bray, |
| Hockliffe, | Sharpenhoe, |
| Tilsworth, Stanbridge and Eggington. | |

With regard to the Parish of Toddington, a scheme has been prepared to supply the village from a local bore-hole, but a further proposal has been made that water should be obtained from Birchmoor through Tingrith. The matter is receiving the attention of the Local Sanitary Authority.

Biggleswade Rural District.

With the exception of the Parish of Upper Stondon, the whole of the Biggleswade Rural District has a piped supply from Biggleswade.

Proposals for extending public water mains to this village are under consideration.

Extensive additional works were carried out during 1934, including:—

(a) The erection of a reinforced concrete water tower adjoining the existing reservoir at Toplers Hill. The new Water Tower was officially opened on the 20th June, 1934, by the Lord Lieutenant for Bedfordshire. The Tower is 90 ft. in height above ground level, and the top water level of the tank, which contains 300,000 gallons, is 335 ft. above O.D. and 70 ft. above the level of the old reservoir.

(b) The installation of new pumping plant capable of raising 65,000 gallons of water per hour.

(c) The laying of 14,826 yards of duplicate trunk and distributing mains from the new tower.

As a consequence of these additions it has been possible to extend the mains to the villages of Meppershall and Cockayne Hatley during the year.

General.

It is earnestly hoped that the schemes will be proceeded with at the earliest possible moment so as to avoid a repetition of the shortage experienced during the drought of last year. In many instances, wells were dry and water had to be obtained from a distance; in some cases the source of supply was not free from suspicion. Cartage was resorted to in several villages.

Souldrop, a village in the north of the County, has been practically without water for some months, supplies being carted from a spring near the village and also from the village well at Sharnbrook.

The Medical Officer for the Ampthill Rural District reports that a serious deficiency of water was experienced during 1934 in the Parishes of Houghton Conquest, Lower Stondon, Greenfield, Marston and Salford.

Grants.

The question of contributions by the County Council under Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, towards the cost of the schemes has received consideration.

In addition to the requirement that all schemes proposed to be adopted by any Rural District Council must first be submitted to, and approved by, the County Council and the work carried out to the satisfaction of the County Water Engineers, to be eligible for grants, the following terms and conditions have been laid down:—

(1) A Rural District Council shall charge, or for the purpose of calculating the contribution, if any, to be made by this Council, shall be deemed to have charged, a minimum tariff of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ on the rateable value for domestic supplies, and for measured supplies 1s. 6d. per thousand gallons or such other sum as in the discretion of the District Council concerned may appear to them to be reasonable and proper.

(2) The surpluses or deficiencies on all water undertakings in a Rural District to be ascertained and the resulting aggregate nett surplus or deficiency expressed as a rate in the £ on the General District Rate.

(3) A Rural District Council to be required to bear the cost of such nett deficiencies up to the equivalent of a rate of 6d. in the £.

(4) Any excess beyond such figure to be borne in equal proportions by the County Council and a Rural District Council, but so that the total to be borne by a Rural District Council is not to exceed the equivalent of 1s. in the £ on the general rate, the County Council to bear anything in excess.

Borough of Bedford.

The Medical Officer for the Bedford Urban District has kindly furnished the following report as to the Corporation Water supply:

“ The water has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

Bedford was more favourably situated in the matter of water supply than many areas. Notwithstanding the drought there was at no time any difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of water from the river and the rock, though the flow of the river was naturally very much reduced in quantity.

The dose of chlorine during the year was kept at one part per million.

The potassium permanganate treatment was continued during the year. The difficulties which followed the interruption of this treatment by frost in December, 1933, have been successfully overcome. No Algal difficulties have been experienced during the year, in spite of the drought and consequently low state of the river.

As a result of further experience with potassium permanganate treatment, triple dosages are now applied. The initial dose averages 5 lbs. of permanganate per million gallons of water. The secondary dose averages 3 lbs. per million gallons, and is applied at the inlet to the precipitation basin, but only when the coagulation treatment is not being used. A third dose averaging $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per million gallons is given at the central chamber immediately before the water is distributed to the filter beds.

Alumina-sulphate has been applied as a coagulant before filtration for a total period of 54 days. This treatment has proved effective and experiments are proceeding with double coagulation. 'Allfloe' sodium-aluminate has been injected as the primary coagulant on these occasions.

The object of the experiment has been to establish a satisfactory form of treatment for dealing with greater quantities of river water which may have to be used in the future, when additional supplies are given to the Rural District Council.

The substitution of valve hydrants for ball hydrants on the distribution system is proceeding.

Water mains and service pipes have been laid for new estates, including the Elstow Road and Corporate Estate, Goldington Road.

The whole of the water in the past year has been pumped by the newly-installed electrical pumps. Two steam-driven pumps, are however, retained as 'standby.'

The incorporation of the added areas within the Borough on April 1st introduced certain additional problems of water supply, and a systematic survey of the water supply of certain premises in the Old Borough, which were known not to have a piped supply, and all premises in the added areas, was carried out during the year."

Borough of Luton.

The Medical Officer for the Luton Urban District reports that the new deep well at Runley Wood, Dallow Road, was brought into operation during last year.

Extensions have been made to the water mains in the Todding-ton Road and Sundon Road areas supplying a housing district previously unsupplied.

Biggleswade Urban District.

The Medical Officer for the Biggleswade Urban District reports that the water mains have been extended for a distance of 110 yds. in South View, Hitchin Street, and 375 yards in the Dells to supply new premises and premises previously outside the area of service.

Twenty-nine new connections were made to the mains, supplying 79 premises.

Dunstable Urban District.

The Medical Officer for the Dunstable Urban District reports that:—

“Although the drought of 1934 was felt generally all over the country, Dunstable was very fortunate in obtaining a constant supply throughout the whole year. The wells were deepened and headings lengthened; also mains have been extended where necessary to meet the development of the Borough.”

Kempston Urban District.

The Medical Officer for the Kempston Urban District reports that the following extensions have been made to the water mains—798 ft. of 2" main have been laid from Chantry Path to serve the new Chantry housing estate, and 1799 ft. of 3" main to supply the houses which have been erected on the Elstow Road and the Cosmic estate.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

The two principal rivers in the County are the Ouse and the Ivel. Inspections were made during the year and samples of river water examined. As far as could be ascertained no serious pollution was taking place. In several instances some slight pollution by sewage was discovered and the facts were communicated to the local sanitary authorities for their attention. So soon as the rural districts are supplied with a piped water supply the question of the disposal of sewage will become of increasing importance as regards the preservation of the purity of the rivers and streams in the County.

RAINFALL.

Weather conditions during the year 1934 were again exceptionally dry, in spite of a slightly increased rainfall.

The total Rainfall recorded at the County Sanatorium was 18.04 inches. In the previous year a rainfall of 17.03 inches was recorded. The rainfall was lowest in the months of February, May and June. The average for England and Wales in 1934 was 33.69 inches, considerably below the average for the last ten years.

December supplied the greatest monthly record. Rain was recorded on 25 out of the 31 days, the total for the month being 3.62 inches.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1934 various works of improvement and extension have been carried out.

The Medical Officer for the **Biggleswade Urban District** reports that :—

“ Two existing premises and 30 new premises were connected to the Council's sewer making a total of 1,579 premises now connected.

The sewer was extended a distance of 40 yards in South View, Hitchin Street to serve a number of new houses.”

The Medical Officer for the **Dunstable Urban District** reports that :—

“ The whole of the added area which drains into domewells, has been under consideration and a scheme of drainage has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.”

The Medical Officer for the **Amphill Rural District** reports that :—

“ Extensions have been made to the existing sewer at Aspley Guise, Greenfield and Shillington. A sewer ditch at Lidlington has been piped with 113 yards of 12" concrete tubes.”

The Medical Officer for the **Bedford Rural District** reports that :—

“ Approximately 200 yards of 6" sewer have been laid at Wymington, together with five inspection chambers, to serve 29 houses, which have been re-drained, and the pail closets have been converted into water closets by the owners.

The existing 6" sewer has been extended for a length of 450 yards, complete with six manholes, to serve a new building estate.”

The Medical Officer for the **Biggleswade Rural District** reports that :—

“ The installation of a modern system of drainage is urgently needed in the parishes of Clifton, Henlow and Shefford, which are of a semi-urban character and are closely linked together.

The time has now arrived when it is essential that a modern system of drainage be installed.

In the township of Shefford there are surface water sewers in the principal streets and the drainage of a number of dwelling-houses and two large business premises discharges into these sewers, which in turn, discharge into a stream which eventually joins the River Ivel. This results in an insanitary condition of the stream for some distance below the outfall.

The only satisfactory remedy is the provision of a modern system of drainage.”

The question of sewage disposal in the rural areas will, so soon as piped water supplies are available in the various districts, require serious consideration. The various problems arising will doubtless receive the consideration of the Local Sanitary Authorities concerned, whose duty it is to make this provision where necessary.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

It will be seen from the following extracts from the Reports of District Medical Officers of Health that improvements have been made in various Districts with regard to the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse, viz.

The Medical Officer for the **Bedford Urban District** reports that :—

“ The total amount of refuse dealt with at the Destructor during the year was 10,671 tons. Of this, 10,184 tons was house refuse and 487 tons trade refuse.

Pail closets from the houses at New Fenlake have been periodically emptied and cleansed during the year, and from the houses in the remainder of the added areas from the time of their incorporation in the Borough.”

The Medical Officer for the **Biggleswade Urban District** reports that :—

“ During the year the Council reviewed the whole question of the disposal of dry refuse in the district and under arrangements made by the Surveyor visits were made to Urban Districts in the County and in Middlesex where methods of disposal by (a) Incineration and (b) Controlled tipping, were demonstrated.

The Council decided to adopt the latter method which is now being carried on without nuisance on land in the vicinity of the Council Schools.”.

The Medical Officer for the **Dunstable Urban District** reports that:—

“ Refuse is collected by a covered petrol lorry supplemented by a horse-drawn covered vehicle as required.”

The Medical Officer for the **Leighton Buzzard Urban District** reports that :—

“ The Urban District Council have made arrangements for an approved system of controlled tipping which will be commenced before the summer of 1935.”

The Medical Officer for the **Luton Urban District** reports that :-

“ The total amount of refuse collected and destroyed was 22,547 tons 3 cwts.”

The Medical Officer for the **Amphill Rural District** reports that :—

“ The Council has decided to collect indestructible refuse throughout the District, and for that purpose has purchased a motor lorry and suitable tips are being arranged.”

The Medical Officer for the **Biggleswade Rural District** reports that :—

“ At the time of going to press tenders have been invited for a monthly or two monthly collection of incombustible refuse in the following parishes:—Campton, Clifton, Meppershall, Southill, Northill, Blunham and Tempsford.

The matter will be first considered by the Parish Councils concerned, and afterwards by the Rural District Council.”

THE RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. W. Russell, the County Agricultural Officer, reports that :—

“ The cases dealt with during the past year have been rather below the usual number. This is probably on account of the dry weather. It has not been necessary to ask the Clerk of the County Council to take legal proceedings in any instance, as the occupiers readily acted on the advice given to deal with the infestation.

During National Rat Week from 5th to 10th November, 1934, I am glad to report that as in past years the useful co-operation was again readily forthcoming from Parish Councils, Sanitary Inspectors, the Police and the Press.

It is perhaps of interest to note that no complaints have been received during the year from the occupiers of land adjoining the refuse dump at Sundon. This refuse disposal site, which serves certain London Boroughs, has been the source of many complaints in previous years, and it was necessary to obtain the assistance of the Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture who made several inspections.’’

HOUSING.

From information kindly supplied by District Medical Officers of Health, I have prepared the following statement showing the number of new houses erected within the County during 1934 :—

| | Total number of new houses erected in 1934 | By the Local Authority | By private enterprise |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| URBAN DISTRICTS | | | |
| Ampthill | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Bedford | 259 | 100 | 159 |
| Biggleswade | 28 | 0 | 28 |
| Dunstable | 209 | 18 | 191 |
| Kempston | 80 | 0 | 80 |
| Leighton Buzzard | 50 | 4 | 46 |
| Luton | 1386 | 0 | 1386 |
| Sandy | 19 | 12 | 7 |
| Total | 2046 | 134 | 1912 |
| RURAL DISTRICTS | | | |
| Ampthill | 131 | 30 | 101 |
| Bedford | 181 | 6 | 175 |
| Biggleswade | 118 | 30 | 88 |
| Luton | 193 | 2 | 191 |
| Total | 623 | 68 | 555 |

It will be seen from the above statement that 2,669 houses were erected within the County during 1934, as compared with 1,896 in 1933.

Once again the greatest proportion of the number of new houses erected is in the Borough of Luton.

HOUSING ACT, 1930.

Section 34 (2) of the Housing Act, 1930, provides that where the Rural District Council claims that any of the houses proposed to be erected by the Council are required for the accommodation of the agricultural population of the District, the County Council shall determine how many such houses are so required, whereupon the County Council will be called upon to contribute at the rate of £1 per annum per house for a period of 40 years, following the completion of these houses.

During the year under review applications for grants were received in respect of 12 houses. Grants were authorised for these houses, and also in respect of 33 other houses outstanding from the previous year.

The following table is inserted giving information as to the action taken by the local sanitary authorities in pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

| SANITARY DISTRICT, | No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made during 1934. | No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders during 1934. |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Ampthill Urban | — | — |
| Ampthill Rural | 40 | — |
| Bedford Urban | 6 | 6 |
| Bedford Rural | 13 | 22 |
| Biggleswade Urban | 62 | 7 |
| Biggleswade Rural | 16 | 25 |
| Dunstable Urban | — | — |
| Kempston Urban | — | — |
| Leighton Buzzard Urban | 1 | — |
| Luton Urban | 25 | 3 |
| Luton Rural | 160 | 17 |
| Sandy Urban | 8 | 17 |
| Total | 331 | 97 |

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

No applications for loans were received by the County Council under this Act, during 1934.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

HOUSES.

Under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, Local Authorities are required to make provision for a thorough inspection of the houses in their district from time to time by their Medical Officer of Health or by an officer designated for the purpose, to ascertain the varying needs or circumstances of the dwelling houses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The workshops and workplaces within the County appear to be adequately inspected, and reasonably well maintained.

Occupiers of Factories and Workshops are required to keep lists of the names and addresses of persons employed by them to execute work at their own homes and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority in February and August of each year.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is reviewed by the School Medical Officers at their visits and defects found, together with suggestions as to improvements which may seem desirable, are brought to the notice of the County Surveyor's Architectural Department. These inspections are additional to those made by the officers of the district sanitary authorities.